Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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Results of CMS survey out

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Results of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid survey of the Commonwealth Health Center are now out, including the findings from last September's resurvey of the hospital.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, the 117-page, two-columned document notes of CMS' findings on their fourth visit last Sept. 12 also include the hospital's plan of correction, which was submitted on

See CMS on Page 4

MHS remedies teacher shortage

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School has found substitute teachers for their social studies and math classes that had been left teacher-less and without instruction for weeks when their original teachers had to go on medical leave.

To remedy this lack of instruction, MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera decided to merge an AP History class with a U.S. Government class to give students instruction time, but this backfired as a chorus of some 70 letters to the editor hit the *Saipan Tribune*'s copy room last Wednesday afternoon, expressing their frustration over the arrangement.

Since then, Cabrera said, she and other school administrators have talked

See MHS on Page 4

TRADITIONAL DANCE

JAYSON CAMACHO

Members of the Chinese Association of Saipan performed the traditional lion dance yesterday at more than 20 establishments to usher in the Lunar New Year, ward off evil spirits, and bring good luck. In this photo, the lion dancers perform at TransAmerica.

9th Circuit affirms conviction, sentence of Guam man who impregnated Rota girl

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the conviction and the imposition of a 97-month prison term on Melvin David Diaz, a Guam ex-convict who impregnated a girl on Rota.

» **Chief judge, however, dissented, saying district judge made mathematical error**

Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, however, dissented in part, saying the district court's mathematical error is plain.

Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder and Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith are the other members of the appellate panel who affirmed the conviction and sentence.

The Ninth Circuit judges said there

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Eight friends take the Beautify My Marianas campaign to Koblerville.
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Local

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IN LAST 3 MONTHS OF 2014

CHCC total revenue $6.8M, while total expenses $9.1M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the months of October, November, and December 2014, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. had $6.84 million in total revenue or cash received, but had $9.12 million in total expenditures, leaving a net deficit of $2.28 million.

CHCC explained its revenues, expenses, and net assets for the three months last year as well as the September 2014 financial statements at yesterday's hearing in Superior Court.

The hearing was about the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s motion asking the court to hold CHCC in contempt for allegedly ignoring a $1.3-million bill for utility services for three months. CUC counsel James Sirok alleged that the non-payment caused CHCC's total overdue balance to balloon to $14.7 million.

Sirok summoned CHCC and its CEO, Esther Muna, to appear at the hearing and produce a listing of all expenses paid by CHCC for October, November, and December 2014. He also asked for monthly income and expense sheets and the financial statement for CHCC for 2014.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for CHCC, submitted the requested documents and called to the witness stand acting CFO Cora Ada to explain the documents.

Ada will continue her testimony on Tuesday at 9am.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman pointed to a summary list for October to December 2014 about IT&E phone bills amounting to $37,946.14.

Ada said the phone bills include Tinian and Rota and for 25 cellphones. She said CHCC is spending $10,000 to $12,000 a month on phone bills.

Ada also testified that for the three-month period, CHCC's grand total of actual payment for several vendors and persons was $3.32 million.

Lochabay pointed out that CHCC did not pay its CUC bills for October, November, and December in 2014 and in January 2015 because the past due vendor accounts could not be delayed any longer.

The lawyer said the vendor accounts that were paid in those four months were all for reasonable and necessary expenses for the safe operation of the hospital and the Public Health Division.

At the May 9, 2014, hearing, Wiseman ordered CHCC to remain current with its monthly billings beginning June 1, 2014, or risk contempt or disconnection of non-essential CHCC utility services.

CUC sued CHCC in December 2013 to collect utility services in the amount of $9.7 million, together with pre-judgment interest.

PSS begins work on 'Principal Pipeline Initiative' with NGA

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A National Governor's Association official is meeting the Public System School over the next few days, as PSS looks to strengthen the role of principals in their schools in the coming years.

NGA program director Sarah K. Silverman visited principals and program managers at their monthly meeting to talk about the "Principal Pipeline Initiative" project they will draft, plan, and implement.

The project will focus on helping out school principals be successful as leaders of islands schools. It will "focus on the role of the principal" and strengthening it for the success of the school system, Silverman said.

See PSS on Page 4

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Legal questions hound CHCC advisory board

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

A joint committee meeting on Capital Hill zeroed in on questions of legality and authority regarding an ongoing tussle between the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory board and its chief executive.

The meeting was initiated as part of an ongoing discussion regarding Senate Bill 18-52 that proposes to transform the CHCC advisory board into a governing body.

Lawmakers earlier summoned CEO Esther Muna and the corporation's advisory board to two separate meetings to get opinions on the bill, which seeks to amend some sections of Public Law 16-51 that created the corporation.

On Wednesday, Muña and some CHCC executives, including the acting chief financial officer, met with lawmakers, although the discussions focused more on the corporation's financial standing based on a report by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Muña promised at the meeting to hand over a business plan "soon."

During the Thursday meeting with lawmakers, members of the CHCC board again cited the alleged shortcomings of the current management and its "lack of transparency."

Board vice chair Pete Dela Cruz emphasized the lack of financial reports and the failure of the corporation management—from unreported expenditures to unexplained salary increases, which he said, bordered on "criminality."

When lawmakers asked why the board has not called a meeting with the CEO to address these serious matters, board member Roy Rios said there is a legal opinion from the CHCC legal counsel that only the CEO can convene a meeting.

"If there's no meeting, then there's no board session," Rios said.

Rios said this is why the board's last meeting was way back in May 2014. The board has not convened since then, he said.

Board chair Joaquin Torres echoed Rios' comments, saying there is a "lack of communication" between the board and the CEO.

For Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the question of convening the meeting seems to point to a "simple policy difference" that must be addressed internally.

For Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), the advisory board should go back to Public Law 16-51, and if there are questions on legal matters, perhaps bring these questions to the attorney general. He said the question of who has authority to call for a meeting should be clarified.

With the ongoing legal tussle, it might take a while for lawmakers to discuss and determine what to do with the CHCC advisory board and its embattled CEO.

US, CNMI govt, CUC seek court approval for $4.6M task order for pipeline project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the CNMI government, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. jointly asked the federal court yesterday to approve a task order with a total funding ceiling of $4.6 million related to the construction of the stalled CUC pipeline project by Gilbane Federal.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based construction company recently selected by the U.S. District Court for the NMI as Engineering and Environmental Management Company, which will have the power to expeditiously complete some CUC projects.

Gilbane Federal informed the parties that the company supports the court's approval of the requested task order 2.

The joint request for task order 2 was signed by U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien for the U.S. government, attorney James Sirok for CUC, and assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan for the CNMI government.

According to Gilbane Federal's task order summary sheet, the pipeline construction will begin work on March 5, 2015, and the completion date is July 1, 2016.

The funding amount under this project is $4.59 million—$1.6 million in CUC grant funding, $2.65 million in CNMI grant funding, and $342,096 in CUC's court registry deposit. Last Feb. 5, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved an additional funding of $2.6 million to complete the pipeline project.

With the additional funds, DOI's total funding for the pipeline project now balloons to $8.1 million since the project was initiated in 2010.

The pipeline project is among the many projects under stipulated order number 2. SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that include the CUC pipeline; tank erection cleanout and testing; secondary containment; and used oil disposal, and others.

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. EPA had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A three-wheeled moped lies on its side after colliding with the red Toyota Corolla sedan along Beach Road last night.

Passenger injured in moped, car collision

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A passenger of a moped was injured when it collided with a car that was making a turn into the Gilber C. Ada Gymnasium's parking lot in Susupe last night, police said.

Terry Camacho Cabrera, 23, sustained lacerations and bruises on the legs and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said the car's driver, Brendan Abner Fernando Venus, 50, was not injured.

» Cops closed Beach Road as smoke emanates from moped

The report did not mention whether Venus was given a traffic citation.

Hurst said DPS Central received a call at 6:09pm about a vehicular crash along Beach Road in front of the Ada Gymnasium.

Police officers responded and saw a damaged three-wheeled moped with its engine still running and smoke emanating from it. The officers also saw a red Toyota Corolla sedan at the northernmost exit of the parking lot.

Officers closed both north- and southbound lanes of Beach Road for a period of time to ensure the safety of motorists in the event of a fire from the moped.

Hurst said investigation showed that the moped was travelling north on the outer lane of Beach Road when the car from the southbound lane made a left turn into the gym's parking lot.

Hurst said the car failed to yield the right of way to the moped, causing the moped to collide with the rear left side of the car.

GUAM MAN

From Page 1

is enough evidence to support the jury's finding that Diaz primarily traveled to Rota, between Aug. 1, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2010, for the purpose of having sex with the the victim, a minor, and that he knew she was a minor.

The judges also ruled that the district court did not base its decision on erroneous facts, and considered the totality of the circumstances to arrive at a sentence that was reasonable.

In February 2012, a federal jury found Diaz not guilty of three counts of enticement of a minor but guilty of one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood sentenced the then-49-year-old Diaz to 97 months in prison, with credit for 504 days of time served.

Diaz appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse his conviction and the sentence. The hearing on the appeal was held in the U.S. District Court of Guam in August 2014.

In affirming the conviction and sentence, judges said the District Court did not err in calculating Diaz's criminal history points and category.

"The facts included in the pre-sentence investigation report and presented at trial provided sufficient evidence for the district court to conclude (by a preponderance of the evidence) that Diaz formulated the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct with this minor within 10 years of his two prior convictions, even though he traveled outside the 10-year period," the judges said.

Federal officials, the judges said, received information that Diaz was having sex with a minor in Rota in April 2010.

Before Diaz traveled to Rota, he and the minor had telephone conversations five to six times per week for months, the judges said.

The judges said that, in May 2010, Diaz asked permission from the minor's parents to date her; Diaz attended her junior high graduation; and she claimed that he had sex with her.

In dissenting in part, Kozinski pointed out that sentences for past crimes may count toward a defendant's criminal history score only if the sentences were "imposed within 10 years of the defendant's commencement of the instant offense."

Kozinski said Diaz's sentences for family violence and simple stalking were imposed on Aug. 15, 2000, so the question is whether he began committing the current offense—traveling to Rota for the purpose of having sex with the underage victim—before Aug. 15, 2010.

Kozinski noted that the U.S. government concedes that Diaz didn't begin the crime during his trip in May 2010, as he didn't know the victim was underage when he traveled to Rota at that time.

The chief judge said Diaz's next trip wasn't until September.

Kozinski said the key question, then, is whether Diaz did anything before Aug. 15 "in preparation for that offense, or in the course of attempting to avoid detection or responsibility for that offense."

The chief judge said while Diaz communicated with the victim prior to Aug. 15, there is no evidence that any of these communications involved planning for the September trip; nor is there any other evidence that Diaz prepared for this trip before Aug. 15.

"Given these undisputed facts, the district court's mathematical error is plain," he pointed out.

Kozinski said in handing down a 97-month prison term, the district court said it intended to give Diaz the "maximum sentence."

Excluding the two prior sentences would have reduced Diaz's guidelines range from 78-97 months to 70-87 months, he said.

"There is thus little doubt that the district court's mistake cost Diaz almost a year in prison, affecting Diaz's substantial rights and undermining the fairness of the sentencing proceedings," he said.

Kozinski said because "it is a miscarriage of justice to give a person an illegal sentence," he would remand for resentencing.

CMS

From Page 1

Dec. 22, 2014.

Muña said the hospital has continued to address all the deficiencies that were cited by CMS and have already been in action before and after the CMS' last visit.

Last year CMS extended the hospital's condition of participation with Medicare up to April 3, 2015, with their plan of corrections to be submitted on Dec. 22, 2014. The hospital then did a follow-up submission of its second plan of correction on Feb. 9 this year.

CMS reason for extension

Rufus Arther, CMS Hospital and Community Care Operations for San Francisco Regional Office branch chief, cited six reasons behind the decision to extend CHC's condition of participation up to April:

■ The continued productive efforts by leadership of the hospital, including Muña and hospital administrator, in addressing areas of noncompliance;

■ The noticeable improvements in a number of areas when compared to the 2013 survey findings, including the area of filling key essential positions;

■ CHCC's extraordinary financial, staffing, infrastructure and operational challenges;

■ A demonstrated commitment to continue to seek the necessary resources, and otherwise work diligently toward the goal of achieving and maintaining compliance with all applicable Medicare conditions of participation or CoPs;

■ The expectation that CHCC will draw upon an array of public and private resources to assist in identifying and resolving the root causes of noncompliance in a sustained manner; and

■ The key role CHCC plays in providing access to essential acute care services to Commonwealth residents.

Survey findings

In its latest survey results, CMS cited CHCC for its governing body, patient rights, medical staff, nursing services, medical records, verbal orders authenticated based on law, delivery of medical prescriptions, directory of dietary services, physical environment, emergency gas and water; facilities, supplies, equipment, and maintenance; ventilation, light, and temperature controls; infection control, discharge planning, and out-patient post anesthesia evaluation.

All the findings did not cite any major or immediate jeopardy, noting that the hospital's plan of correction is addressing these problems.

For the governing body, CMS found that it did not meet conditions on medical staff appointments, and the medical staff's accountability.

For patient rights, CMS found that it did not meet conditions on personal privacy, care in a safe setting, and its restraint or seclusion.

For the medical staff, CMS found that it did not meet conditions on periodic appraisals, credentialing, and its bylaws.

For the nursing services, CMS found that it did not meet conditions on registered nurse supervision of nursing services.

Medical records also did not meet the conditions for its form and retention and security.

For the most part, majority of the findings are confidential and could not be disclosed.

Plan of correction

Majority of the hospital's plan of correction includes reassessing its policies and procedures so that everyone is in line with their work at the hospital.

Integrating more teamwork into play and giving more ownership to the staff and management in implementing the policies are also part of the plan of correction.

It also includes correcting each deficiency, improving processes that led to the deficiency cited, procedure for implementing the plan of correction, completion date of correction, tracking and monitoring of corrections, and title of staff responsible for implementing the plan of correction.

Part of the plan is to address patient rights, to encourage patients to speak out if they are not getting the care they need or if they have any concerns, and that patient rights posters are posted where hospital patients could see them.

"CHC has come a long way from before the September 2014 survey. We are grateful that CMS recognized the improvements made by the hard-working staff and management of CHC and that CHCC leadership is serious in making sure the corrective actions are made. With both CHCC leadership, CHC management, and CHC staff working together, we are seeing positive things and rightfully so—our residents deserve this progress," said Muña.

MHS

From Page 1

things out with the frustrated students of the combined classes to get their feedback.

"For a lot of students they just want to know why? Why is this happening, why am I facing this?" she said.

She described the experience as "a lesson" learned. "Every time I make a decision, especially with those it affects, I need to talk to them and see how they are with this decision. Teachers…were onboard with helping. I had the students' interests in mind when I made the decision. I thought they'd be glad to finally have instruction and finally have a teacher, but I guess they had other perspective I didn't think about."

She hopes they can "keep communication lines open."

She said that although merging classes "is a very common practice in elementary [school]" it is not very common in high school.

"If anything, I'm kind of glad that the [*Saipan Tribune*] article came out today because it opened an honest discussion. Some of them were afraid to tell me things. ...It fostered a lot of really good communication with the students. They had awesome suggestions."

She added that the new substitutes "are ready to work with us very, very soon."

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan explained that Cabrera had interviewed several substitute teacher candidates but most of the candidates had also been interviewed in other schools.

"They chose other schools that also had a need for substitute teachers," Sablan said. 'That was the challenge at [MHS]."

Sablan hopes students will be open to Cabrera.

"We should really be proactive in terms of how we can work with our student body and work with our teachers to review situations and work together to resolve situations… We could have prevented [this] and worked and helped the students to understand why things happen the way they do."

"I think the most important thing is we need to assure the parents out there is that the principal has resolved the situation of substitute teachers for the staff on medical leave."

She called it "unfortunate that we have three teachers in very critical content areas" out on leave.

One MHS student who wrote a letter to the editor said they would to talk more regularly with their principal. "That's great, we are finally being heard," she said.

PSS

From Page 2

PSS recently was chosen to receive $15,000 in grant awards from NGA. They were one out of four states and territories chosen to receive the grant.

Silverman will be meeting with stakeholders for a "kick off" and talk about how they will proceed with the program.

She said one of the things that states face is the role of principals getting unwieldy and overwhelming. "One of the things we want to think about is helping principals help teachers get better," she said.

PSS will go through an assessment tool and talk about "what makes sense" for PSS, and over the next six or nine months put together a comprehensive action plan.

After this, she said, principals and the PSS central office will work together to implement all the aspects of the action.

The plan could focus on how principals are trained

"Many principals report that they don't feel like they don't get very clear direction from the state or territory. …Often principals feel like they are being pulled in different directions. One of things about having a conversation about a 'clear vision' it will put everybody on the same page about what a principal should be doing—what an effective principal looks like," she said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said PSS is always looking for something to improve or strengthen the school district.

She called it significant that they were chosen. "The nation and the CNMI are engaged in a very important project. Principals do matter in a school system… Our work is to ensure that policies are in place for the principals is critical."

Kilili files leave of absence, to undergo back surgery

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C Sablan (Ind-MP) has filed a leave of absence, citing medical reasons. The CNMI's four-term delegate to Congress will undergo back surgery on March 2.

In a statement, Sablan said he will "be in recovery for about two months" after the operation.

Sablan said he has been shuttling back and forth between the Commonwealth and Washington, D.C. in the last six year and that took a heavy toll on his back.

"These last six years in the U.S. Congress have been filled with success, but they have also been hard on my health," Sablan said. "Now the doctors tell me that my only choice is surgery to fuse some of the vertebrae in my lower back."

Sablan said the operation will be at George Washington Hospital in Washington, D.C. He expects a full recovery.

The lawmaker said he will "not be able to keep a full schedule at the House of Representatives" during his recovery period, but he will try to keep in touch though email and telephone.

Sablan just recently begun his fourth term as the CNMI nonvoting representative to the 114th House of Representatives.

He was sworn in last January and is the first and only official ever to represent the people of the CNMI in Congress. ***(Joel D. Pinaroc)***

Saipan municipal council to retain flag design

Despite a flag-design contest earlier held by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, new council members have decided to retain the main flag design and just introduce minor changes.

Council chair Antonia Tudela, vice chair Alicia Igitol, and secretary Lareina Camacho came to this decision at their first regular session yesterday.

Igitol said the minor change includes having a *mwar-mwar* (head garland) around the latte stone design of the flag.

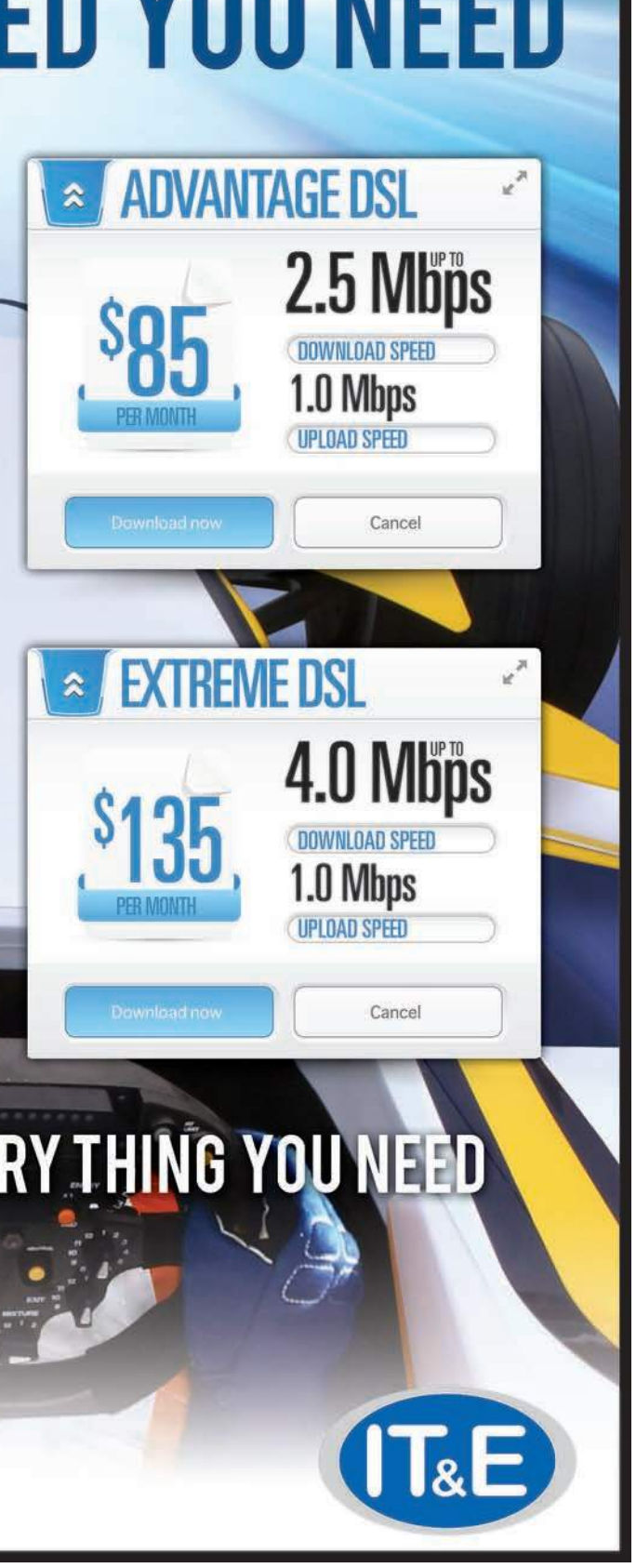
"The previous chair, Ramon Camacho, wanted to change the flag design so the art contest was for the new flag design, but the previous and past council members didn't want a change for the whole flag design," Tudela said.

In October 2014, the council held a flag design contest and hundreds of students from the Public School System submitted entries. During their final session on Jan. 7, the 12th municipal council deferred taking action on the adoption of the flag design, leaving it to the new council members to decide.

Tudela said they agreed to keep the design as it is, with just the addition of the *mwar-mwar* design. She said they will change the flag design as soon as possible.

Igitol said they have informed the winning students of the change and that they still presented awards to the students, despite the decision not to use the winning design.

Tudela said they will still display the winning flag designs at their office and at the Kiosku Memorial. ***(Jayson Camacho)***



Saipan Chinese community celebrates Lunar New Year

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Chinese community welcomed the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Goat (Sheep or Ram) yesterday with the traditional lion dance in different establishments around the island.

Dressed in vivid colors of gold and yellow, more than 10 members of the Chinese Association of Saipan visited over 20 businesses yesterday to perform the traditional lion dance, which is supposed to bring good luck and fortune in the new year.

The dance they performed was called the Chinese Southern Lion Dance that originated in Guangdong, China.

For 13 straight hours, members danced their way into different establishments to supposedly ward off evil spirits and bring good luck. At the end of the dance, a traditional Chinese scroll is presented to the owner for good luck.

The dance started bright and early at 8am at the TSL Plaza and TakeCare/FHP. They moved on to Century Hotel, JP Center, TransAmerica, Saipan Apparel, POI, RMS, Saipan International School, Hyatt Regency Saipan, NIC Health Center, and 9922 store in Garapan for the entire morning.

In the afternoon the dancers performed at Canton Restaurant, Majesty Restaurant, Kanoa Resort, Century Tours, 880 Duty Free, Club C, IT&E, Subway, CTSI, D&Q, Cosmos, Louis Vuitton at T Galleria, Sun Leader Market, Dollar Days, and Micro Beach Hotel.

In the evening the lion dancers performed at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Saipan Adventure, IShop, again at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, I Love Saipan, Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base, Duty Free/T-Galleria, and Saipan World Resort.

Chinese Association of Saipan director Rose Chan said that during the dance, the "lion" is fed with lettuce or cabbage—called the traditional custom of "cai qing"—and is presented with red envelopes that contain money. At the end of every performance, participants bow and a scroll is given to the host establishment.

JAYSON CAMACHO
Saipan Apparel's Peter Sablan and his children and wife, Michelle, are presented with a "good luck" scroll after the Chinese Association of Saipan performed the traditional lion dance at the company's location in San Antonio.

Chan said the association will be hosting a dinner tomorrow, Saturday, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa for their Lunar New Year party.

The night before, at the stroke of midnight, many of the Chinese businesses on the island put on fireworks displays, supposedly to drive away the bad spirits of the previous year. Most Chinese businesses were also closed on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

Barcode owner Bruce Lee said that traditionally on Lunar New Year's Eve they would get together with family to cook and eating together.

"We're having dinner right now to celebrate for the New Year and it is tradition," Lee said.

Nancy McDowell, Hyatt Regency sales manager, said the usual tradition in their family would have them eat dumplings at midnight.

Another who owns a store near Paseo de Marianas said his family cooked the whole day on the eve of Lunar New Year because in Chinese custom it is considered bad luck to cook anything with knives so all the food to be consumed is cooked days before.

"Celebrating New Year on Saipan for a long time is good prosperity for the whole CNMI," said Chinese newspaper publisher Betty Bai.

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CHCC accuses CUC of illegal prosecution

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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has accused the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. of illegally prosecuting CHCC by using public funds to finance its lawsuit against the corporation.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for CHCC, asserted that CUC's use of appropriated public funds to pursue the lawsuit is in direct contravention of CNMI law.

"Neither has CUC obtained the approval of the governor to prosecute this action, also in direct contravention of CNMI law. The suit should be dismissed," he said.

Lochabay raised again the legality of CUC's lawsuit in CHCC's response to CUC's motion asking the Superior Court to hold CHCC in contempt for ignoring a $1.3-million bill for utility services for three months. CUC counsel James Sirok alleged that the non-payment caused CHCC's total overdue balance to balloon to $14.7 million.

In CHCC's response, Lochabay said CHCC officials never willfully violated the court's order as they were, and are, simply in a situation where there are not enough funds to pay all of the bills.

Lochabay said CHCC did not pay the utility bills for October, November, and December in 2014 and in January 2015 because the past due vendor accounts were to the point where they could not be delayed any longer.

The lawyer said the vendor accounts that were paid in those four months were all for reasonable and necessary expenses for the safe operation of the hospital and the Public Health Division.

Lochabay asked the court to suspend further proceedings in this case to allow briefing on the matter of CUC's lack of capacity and the legality of the lawsuit.

At the May 9, 2014, hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered CHCC to remain current with its monthly billings beginning June 1, 2014, or risk contempt, including consideration by the court to allow the disconnection of non-essential CHCC utility services.

CUC sued CHCC in December 2013 to collect utility services in the amount of $9.7 million, together with pre-judgment interest.

Wiseman stands pat in decision not to dismiss lawsuit vs CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finding the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s arguments to be without basis and unpersuasive, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday denied CUC's motion to reconsider his earlier ruling that denied the request to dismiss a taxpayer and class action lawsuit filed by Carmen Gaskins and others regarding an alleged overpayment by CUC customers for three months in 2006.

Wiseman

In denying CUC's motion to reconsider, Wiseman also ordered CUC to respond within 10 days from yesterday to Gaskin's and co-plaintiffs' third amended complaint.

Wiseman, however, amended a paragraph of his earlier ruling "in the interest of clarity," saying he recognizes that the language used may be confusing.

In CUC's motion for reconsideration, attorney James S. Sirok argued that the court clearly erred when it appeared to issue findings that Gaskins and co-plaintiffs have already certified their class action suit and that plaintiffs are named as class representatives.

Sirok also argued that manifest injustice would result if the court does not grant its motion to dismiss on the issue of whether plaintiffs alleged that CUC made expenditures that were not for a public purpose.

Regarding CUC's first argument about clear error, Wiseman said he finds it to be without basis considering that his Oct. 21, 2014, order denying the motion to dismiss issues no finding of fact.

Wiseman said he explained in his Oct. 21 order that, at the pleadings stage, plaintiffs' allegations are assumed to be true.

Pertaining to CUC's second argument on manifest injustice, the judge noted that CUC does not explain how manifest injustice would result from a court's finding that it is possible that with the appropriate development of facts—a court could find in favor of plaintiffs.

Gaskins' co-plaintiffs are Milagros S. Palacios, Saipan Ice and Water Co. Inc., Jacques Kirby, Florence Kirby, and Saipan Aquaculture. In their complaint filed in 2009, the plaintiffs alleged a taxpayer and class action suit against CUC and the CNMI government. They later amended the complaint twice.

CUC then filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The CNMI government also joined in CUC's motion to dismiss.

In his Oct. 21 order, Wiseman determined that plaintiffs have alleged enough facts to indicate that the funds spent were in fact public funds.

Guam man dies in traffic crash

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Guam authorities say a 26-year-old motorcyclist has died in a traffic crash.

Pacific Daily News reports Jonathan Roy Santos died Sunday in the crash in Asan.

Chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola says Santos died of a skull fracture and a crushed chest and abdomen.

Authorities say the crash occurred when a passenger van pulled onto Marine Corps Drive and collided with Santos' motorcycle.

Guam Fire Department spokesman Kevin Reilly says both the motorcycle and the van were fully engulfed in flames after the collision. Santos died at the scene.

The crash is under investigation.

Stellar invites candidates for Miss Marianas pageant

Young women across the CNMI now have the opportunity to help their community by becoming a positive role model and ambassador to the world with the 2015 Miss Marianas Pageant this May.

After the success of 2014 Miss Marianas Teen, Stellar Marianas, the islands' nonprofit pageant and talent group, has begun recruiting 18-25 year-old qualified contestants for the islands' premier pageant.

Stellar Marianas is inviting interested applicants to Hard Rock Café today at 5:30pm to meet the team, turn in applications, and learn about the opportunities.

"We highly encourage our young women to join these worthwhile and positive community and global events as the experience is not only incredibly fun, but will also boost confidence and offer lifelong skills," said Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer.

"We began with Miss Marianas Teen 2014 last July and now Miss Marianas 2015 in May. We are closing the application process this week and encourage our young women to take this opportunity while it is here," she said.

Rehearsals and preparation will begin next week and the theme is "Vintage Hollywood."

"The glamour and elegance of that era will provide a show experience like no other. We are super excited!" said Boyer.

2015 Miss Marianas contestant application forms are available at *Marianas Variety* office and Pena House in Chalan Kanoa or send email requests to stellarqueens@gmail.com.

The age range for contestants is 18 to 25 year olds, must be U.S. citizen, single, not married, no children, and of good moral and ethical character.

Titleholders have the opportunity to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at two international pageants.

Contestants will receive a Stellar Marianas beauty bag, hair and make up training sessions, nutrition and fitness training, model portfolio, media interview and public speaking training sessions, opening number outfit and swim wear from Stellar Marianas.

Miss Marianas 2015 could win a crown, trophy, sash and flowers, $1,500 cash, all expense paid travel opportunity to compete at two international pageants, all expense paid travel opportunities, a brand new smart phone, one-year supply of beauty products, one-year gym membership and personal trainer, one-year use of a personal stylist and manicurist, a professional model portfolio, a four-piece luggage set from Stellar Marianas, and an opportunity to create and implement a community project under your name assisted by Stellar Marianas.

For more information, email stellarqueens@gmail.com or join Stellar Marianas on Facebook. ***(PR)***

Search continues for student overboard in Pacific

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy are continuing the search for a student reported overboard from a Japanese training vessel approximately 70 miles southwest of Kauai, Tuesday.

Coast Guard and Navy assets have searched 9,412 square miles totaling 83 search hours.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center were notified at 9:56am regarding a 17-year-old male Japanese national who was reported overboard from the 208-foot Japanese training vessel *Hokuho Maru* during their transit from Honolulu to Japan.

The man was last seen at approximately 2:50am, and was reported missing after he did not show up for muster. He was last seen wearing a light green jump suit. It is not known if he was wearing a life jacket.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point was diverted from a training mission and is currently searching the area.

The Coast Guard cutter *Kittiwake*, homeported here, and the Coast Guard cutter *Kiska*, homeported in Hilo, Hawaii are assisting in the search along with the USS *Lake Champlain*, homeported in San Diego, Calif.

The *Hokuho Maru* is retracing its route to search for the missing student along with its two sister training vessels, the *Tosakaien Maru* and the *Chishio Maru*. ***(USCG)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The ambivalent pursuit of a war resolution

It was one of the more embarrassing moments in an embarrassing year—decade?—for Congress. As Islamic State rampaged through Syria and Iraq over the summer, Congress stayed on vacation rather than debate and vote on a broad resolution authorizing the president to respond. No one, including the president, wanted to risk a public debate on U.S. anti-terrorism efforts before the November election.

The election is over—Democrats avoided the war debate but lost the Senate anyway—and now President Barack Obama is asking Congress for a resolution authorizing the use of force against Islamic State.

The president wants permission to engage, but he also wants Congress to tie his hands. He's asking Congress to sign off on a plan to fight a limited war that excludes "enduring offensive ground combat operations." He would tie the hands of the next president by setting a three-year expiration on the resolution.

The president doesn't actually require a resolution to act. The U.S. and its allies have launched more than 2,000 airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. More than 2,600 American troops are on the ground helping the beleaguered Iraqi military get its act in gear.

Legal justification to respond to Islamic State already exists because, while the enemy has a new name, this is basically a continuation of the war on terror. The authority granted in 2001 to fight al-Qaida, still in place, remains valid against Islamic State.

This is a war that may go on for some time, and get even more complicated than it has been. Islamic State controls a vast sweep of territory and represents a clear threat to the Middle East, to American interests there and to our national security. Mosul—Iraq's second-largest city—is occupied by Islamic State. Four Americans who fell into the militant group's hands have been killed, three by gruesome beheading. A captured Jordanian air force pilot was burned alive. Islamic State has been recruiting and training people from around the world, including the U.S.

Passing a congressional resolution would be a full-throated declaration by the members of Congress that they support the use of military force in this fight against terrorism. It would send a message to our allies, and our enemy, that America is committed to this.

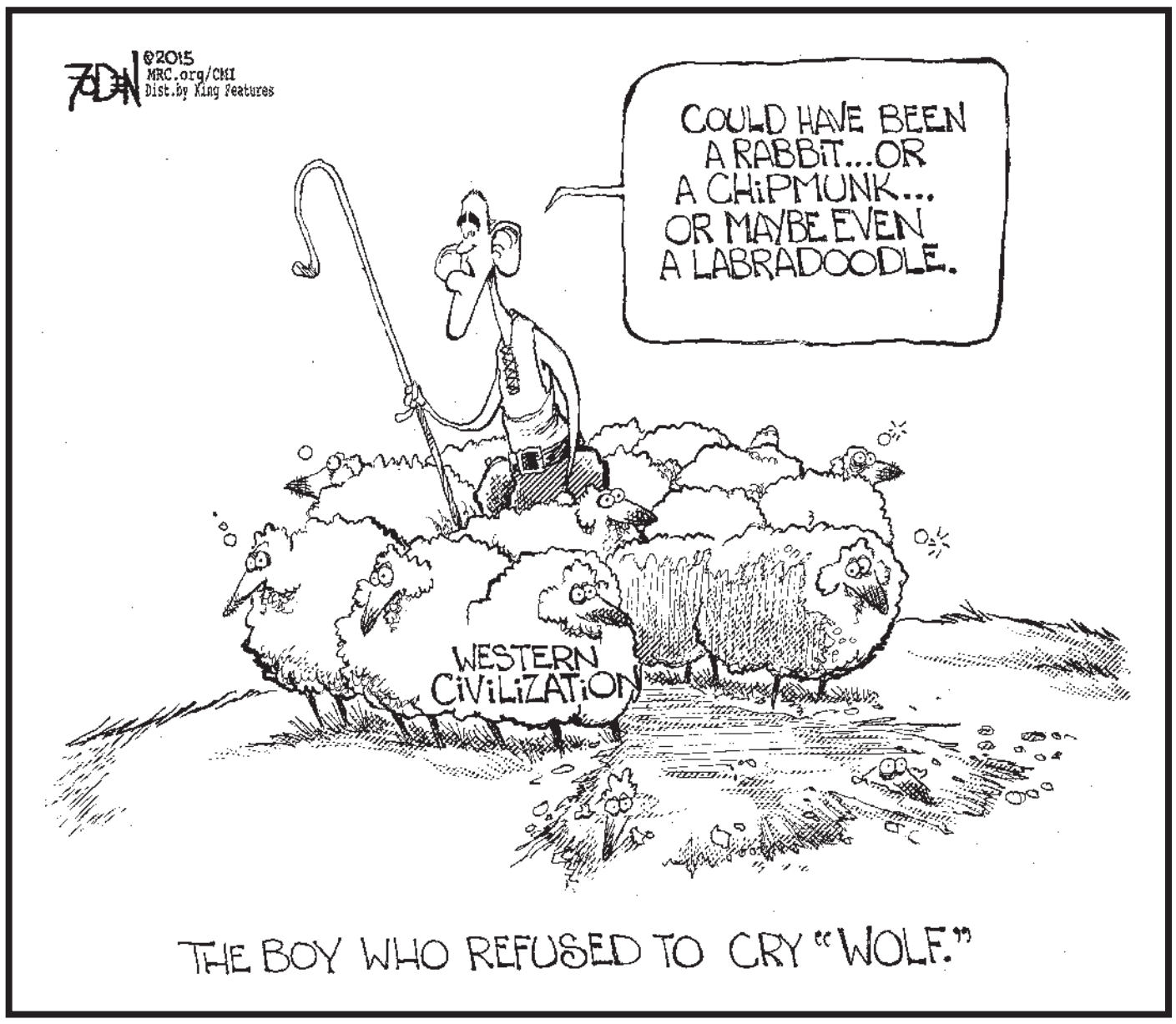
The president plans for continued airstrikes by the U.S. and continued cooperation with our allies. A vital phalanx from the Middle East—Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—is flying sorties against Islamic State in Syria.

Controlling the skies is crucial. Over the past several months, airstrikes have taken a toll on Islamic State, whose land-grabbing ability now appears stalled. But this is a war that will be won or lost on the ground. Kurdish peshmerga forces have driven Islamic State from some territory. Not much more will happen until the hapless Iraqi army gets on its feet after its embarrassing collapse last year, which gave Islamic State free rein to push nearly to Baghdad.

Obama believes the key to defeating Islamic State lies with those local forces. The peshmerga and Iran-backed Shiite militias are doing most of the fighting now, while the U.S. retrains the Iraqi army. It will be months before there's any hope of dislodging the enemy from Mosul.

Under the president's proposed authorization, the U.S. would ramp up its fighting capacity, but only to a point. He seeks permission to conduct limited U.S. ground combat operations, including rescue missions, the use of special operations forces to

See AMBIVALENT on Page 14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Pasyon

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The Passion story of the Christ is the most celebrated story from Europe, out of the faiths that were nurtured from the Levant transmitted through the web of the Graeco-Roman civilization for Christianity, and Arabia for Islam.

The impulse in the desert to succumb to the illusion of mirage is constant and deadly. This led to a fundamental question of what reality is and what might be a reliable guide to living.

Judaism vowed that the Way Life Is, symbolized by the enigmatic YHWH, is the way life is without imaginal embellishment. The Jews' stern deity came a long way after returning from exile in Egypt, though what was once common space in Palestine became sacred space and holiness was bestowed on geography rather than as a quality of the Way Life Is!

What was true of the Jew became personalized and authenticated in the lifestyle of Iesu of Nazareth, that of sheer expenditure. The Way Life Is cannot be saved and contained in the Holy of Holies. It is true of life that it is more blessed to give than to receive, not because someone said so, but because life itself bears witness to it. Expenditure is the nature of existence, and nature's decay is the foundation of new life. As all die, new life, nevertheless, emerges!

Constantine unified the empire with only one religion that canonized the Four Gospels with the whole gamut between Genesis to Apocalypse in sacred writ, the New as fulfillment of Jewish prophesy. Augustine, Aquinas, and the Augsburg crowd nailed their theses on the Christian soul before the idolatry of Jesus reared its ugly head and the canon of Scripture took in a Koranic quality of inerrancy. To this tradition would half of America pledge its allegiance!

Mohammed in Mecca respected the Jews and the Christians but wary of the tendency to create icons within religion, the "no-thing" (Allah) became supreme reality, which is to say even images of personages like Mohammed and realities like Allah were banished to ensure that the rampant multi-idolatry in Mecca was to cease.

Unfortunately, the followers of Mahmoud and Ali turned around and created idolatrous icons out of the Koran, a confrontational lifestyle like the *jihad,* and the cultural practices attendant to the observances of Islam among the Arabic community in the Middle East. The politics of oil understandably enough gives Islam reasons to be resentful of the West, and Islam took a heinous coloration of violence among ordinary citizens of the Western world.

The three faiths out of the Levant nevertheless addressed themselves to the same question of reality and authenticity. The Jews learned to sing the songs of Zion by the rivers of Babylon, deeply grounded in Hitler's Holocaust where the spirit can survive any dispensation; Israel was born! Christians took the motif of the suffering Servant and made Jesus' total expenditure of self an unquestioning obedience to the Way Life Is. From the 7th to the 15th centuries, Islam shared a communal lifestyle with the rest of the world that tolerated diversity in a sea of differences and sought common humanity, until Columbus made his way to the New World, and the Ottomans appropriated *jihad* as a tenet of faith.

Meanwhile, the traditions of the East had the Hindus keep unity in diversity at the personal level, Om. Buddha became a state of serenity made possible by the disciplines of meditation and contemplation. The ways of the Tao retained the obvious difference of opposites fully contained within the same circle, with the tranquility of the individual lodged firmly at the pivot point pressured by the struggle for balance and harmony. The *yin-yang* became an enduring symbol.

The Passion of the Christ, from the incarnation to the resurrection, is an umbrella story of the liberation from exile of the Jew, the transcendent non-material ethos of Islam, the all-embracing capacity of the Hindu, a comprehensive contentment of the Buddha, and the communal endurance of the Tao, all in a fluid account of a person's travail from the entry to Jerusalem to the triumph of an empty tomb. The story is true of every Joe Blow and plain Jane transcending ecclesiastical hierarchies that sprouted in many traditions. The story is true of everyone who walks this earth!

Christian theologians are clear that the Passion story (Mel Gibson's box office success notwithstanding) is exactly that, a story, defying historical accuracy in merging four Gospel narratives into a seamless whole. It is a lasting story not because it is authoritative but because it resonates with authenticity.

This week began the last call on cholesterol on Tuesday seen in the raucous Mardi Gras of New Orleans and the samba-swinging Carnival in Rio that ushered the solemnity of Wednesday morning when we were reminded again with ashes on the forehead that "to dust we came and to dust, we shall return." A 40-day fast leads to Lent where Stations of the Cross and Golgotha's reality endure as a backdrop of Saipan's Sabalu, and every human's journey.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Copper

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Saipan is one of many places where the term "copper" has been associated with the word "theft." The metal has often been stripped from infrastructure (such as electrical cables) in order to be sold into the shady side of scrap markets. But there's a lot more to copper than crime reports. Copper, it turns out, has a wild history.

And it has to be wild to get my attention. After all, I'm no history buff. The few things I think I know about history are probably wrong, so I'll tell you what I think I know about copper.

As Boy Scouts, we learned that copper's properties made it good for coins and electrical wiring. Copper is malleable, which allows it to be stamped into detailed forms (good for coins), it is an excellent conductor of electricity (good for wires, motors, and generators), and it can last a long time without being eaten by corrosion (good for anything built with copper).

Still, I never considered copper's history until I was passing through Butte, Montana.

Like many frontier towns, Butte had gold and silver mining back in the Wild West days. By the late 1800s, though, copper was getting increasingly important. Thomas Edison, in 1879, unveiled one of his inventions: the electric light bulb. Things moved fast after that, and led, among other things, to the formation of the General Electric company in 1892. The electrification of the nation and its consequent hunger for copper made copper mining a lucrative industry.

As for Butte, by the early 1900s its copper mining made it a very rich and sophisticated city. Its historical buildings reminded me a little of Chicago.

One of Butte's copper mining magnates was a guy named William Clark, who started off in gold mining. He's one of the richest guys in U.S. history. Clark's legacy looms all over the West, including Jerome, Arizona (where he operated another copper mine; the town is a tourist attraction now) and his namesake Clark County, Nevada, which is home to Las Vegas.

The old copper mines were mixed up in all sorts of wild intrigues, corruption, skullduggery, and conflicts, much of which has been fodder for books and stories.

For a guy like me, 100 years old is ancient history. But copper runs back to the earliest days of civilization, something like 10,000 years ago. Schoolbook fare when I was a kid held that it was copper that provided the leap from the Stone Age into the age of metalworking, the first step of which was the Bronze Age.

Bronze, and, by the way, brass, are alloys of copper. Bronze is typically a mixture of copper and tin, and brass is a mixture of copper and zinc. This stuff can get complicated with all sorts of metals being mixed in, but the historical gist is that copper was the main player.

As useful as copper is, it's an industrial metal, not a "precious" metal. So it's nowhere near as expensive as gold, silver, or platinum are. As of this writing, a pound of copper costs about $2.60. That same heft of gold, by contrast, would cost about $17,760, about on par with most mediocre brands of Valentine candy.

By the way, if you ever want to amuse yourself doing these comparisons, note that gold is measured in Troy ounces, copper in Avoirdupois ounces, and candy in calories.

As important as copper is in American lore, the largest producer of it nowadays is Chile. China is second; Peru, third; the U.S., fourth.

I like to buy little copper souvenirs in gift shops. My favorite such tchotchke was a little egg-shaped casting of solid copper that I got in Montana. Even though it was smaller than a golf ball, it had a satisfying heft to it. It would always roll off my desk, though. Now I can't find it.

So earlier this week I looked at some copper-selling websites. I found that I could order a 1-lb. bar of copper. It would be a perfect paperweight. At around $10, sure, it's nearly four times the bare value of the metal, but at least it's not going to roll anywhere. When I envisioned this bar of copper on my desk, I finally stopped missing the little egg-shaped thing.

I should have quit while I was ahead. But I soon spotted the mother of all copper pieces: a 10-lb. bar of pure copper.

Ten pounds! Now that's a foot-squasher to perch on my desk. This made the 1-lb. bar seem like a pipsqueak by comparison, so I naturally forgot all about the one-pounder. Hey, go big, or go home; that's what I say.

Unfortunately, I was home. And before I could order the big copper bar, my wife found out what I was up to. Failing to appreciate the merits of a 10-lb. foot-squasher, she told me to turn off the computer and said it was time for me to clean up the garage.

So this pretty much covers the history of copper, at least up until the garage thing came along.

Meanwhile, I'm back to missing my little copper egg. Oh, well, we've still got Montana, at least in my memories, that is. And nobody has figured out a way to steal those. Well, not yet, anyway.

Misguided proposals

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Occasionally, we would see the reintroduction of a myopic proposal to establish a political status commission, supposedly to review our relationship with our national government.

It's an unrealistic legislation given the historical fact behind the agreement. In 1975 we voted and approved the Covenant Agreement by over 78 percent. In 1976, President Ford signed it into law (U.S. Public Law 94-241) following congressional approval.

The concept of supremacy of laws was briefly explained under the agreement that begins with the supremacy of the U.S. Constitution, descending to federal laws then local laws.

A glimpse into likely violation of mutual consent provisions under the agreement by the feds didn't produce one justifying formal discussion. In fact, concerns, real or perceived, are on our side of the Pacific Divide.

If perchance you prefer yelling from the fence because Kilili is a political nemesis, then it takes mature statesmanship to extend the olive branch so we begin talking among ourselves.

Aren't issues relating to self-government largely self-inflicted, like the deepening fiscal and economic mess today? Have we done anything in stride to inflict real change?

A mechanism was established under the 902 talks to review our relationship every 10 years. Someone dropped the ball and has since been left in the filth of neglect. It was intended as a protocol to strengthen our relationship. Nothing ever happened up that alley.

Did we diligently guard against the closure of the $1.2-billion apparel industry? Did we lift our finger to prevent the exodus of major Japanese investments in recent past? Or did we simply sleepwalk it all? Obviously we failed vision, leadership and genuine plans.

So who was negligent that investments took an exodus elsewhere? Uncle Sam? The inadequacies are from within. Deal with it!

'Be patient!'

After nearly a decade of Republican administration, we came back last election reconfirming the desire to "let it be." And we did by nearly 58 percent.

But as the wheels of our livelihood begin to come off or disengage, we ask in obvious despair and ignorance: What's happening? The administration has already admonished Best Sunshine to "be patient." Well, we wanted this administration to handle matters of state. So you too must learn to "be patient!"

The acceleration of the deepening economic mess is such that its effects are felt in every household Marianas-wide. No amount of media appeasement or spin would derail the superiority of the hardship villagers have to endure these days. Agree?

Appalling that a legislator would ask the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to help reduce the price of basic goods obviously exacerbated by stagnancy in salaries and wages for nearly a decade. No breezy stuff either. We live and die by our decisions. It was your decision. Live with it come hell or high water!

Time for introspection

The problems at home remind me of a joke where a Russian citizen was given a chance to meet with the late Premier Khrushchev. He kicked the desk, ranted and raged, declaring, "All our problems is the fault of President JF Kennedy!" Well, he'd be sent to the Gulag if he accuses Khrushchev of negligence.

Perhaps it is most fitting at this juncture in our less than sterling

See MISGUIDED on Page 14

What if that were you?

By JEANNE RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Most employers are aware that the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, protects people with disabilities from discrimination and requires most employers to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified employees with known disabilities.

Most employers are aware of different types of accommodations for people with physical disabilities but might not be a familiar with accommodations for employees with disabilities that are not visible, such as psychiatric disabilities.

Likewise, most employers are aware of the Family Medical Leave Act, or FMLA, which entitles an eligible employee to a total of 12 workweeks of leave during any 12-month period "[b]ecause of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the position of such employee." *29 U.S.C. § 2612(a)*

But employers might be less familiar with the FMLA provision that the leave "may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule." *29 U.S.C. § 2612(b)*

A "serious health condition" includes a physical or mental condition that involves "continuing treatment by a health care provider," *29 U.S.C. § 2611(11);* for example, cancer (physical condition) or depression, bipolar disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder (mental health condition).

Accommodations should be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the individual's limitations and strengths, work environment and job duties. In addition to accommodations such as flexible workspace and scheduling, leave, and breaks, accommodations could include modification or removal of non-essential job duties or restructuring the job to include only essential job functions.

Managers and supervisors have an important role to play in ensuring that employees with disabilities are provided the appropriate support (rather than criticism) in order to maximize their productivity. Examples of accommodations by management/supervision include:

- Implementation of flexible and supportive supervision style.
- Positive reinforcement and feedback.
- Adjustments in level of supervision or structure, such as more frequent meetings to help prioritize tasks.
- Open communication with supervisors regarding performance and work expectations.
- Additional forms of communication and/or written and visual tools, including communication of assignments and instructions in the employee's preferred learning style (written, verbal, e-mail, demonstration).
- Development of strategies to deal with problems before they arise.
- Relevant training for all employees, including co-workers and supervisory staff.

See www.dol.gov/odep.

So we ask: WHAT IF THAT WERE YOU?

And managers and supervisors, as well as co-workers, should ask themselves: WHAT IF THAT WERE ME? What if I had a serious health condition and needed to maintain my job, not only to support myself and/or my family, but also to maintain my health insurance? What can I do to accommodate this person so that he can perform the essential functions of his job?

Some sources of information about ADA, FMLA, and reasonable accommodations include www.dol.gov/odep (DOL Office of Disability Employment), http://askjan.org (Job Accommodation Network (JAN) and www.eeoc.gov (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission).

If you have a disability and need assistance in obtaining accommodations as a result of that disability, contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273; (670) 235-7274; (670) 235-7275 (fax); (670) 235-7278 (tty); or online at www.nmpasi.org. NMPASI may be able to assist through one of its programs, such as Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), Protection & Advocacy for Development Disabilities (PADD); Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR); Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PAAT); Client Assistance Program (CAP); or Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS).

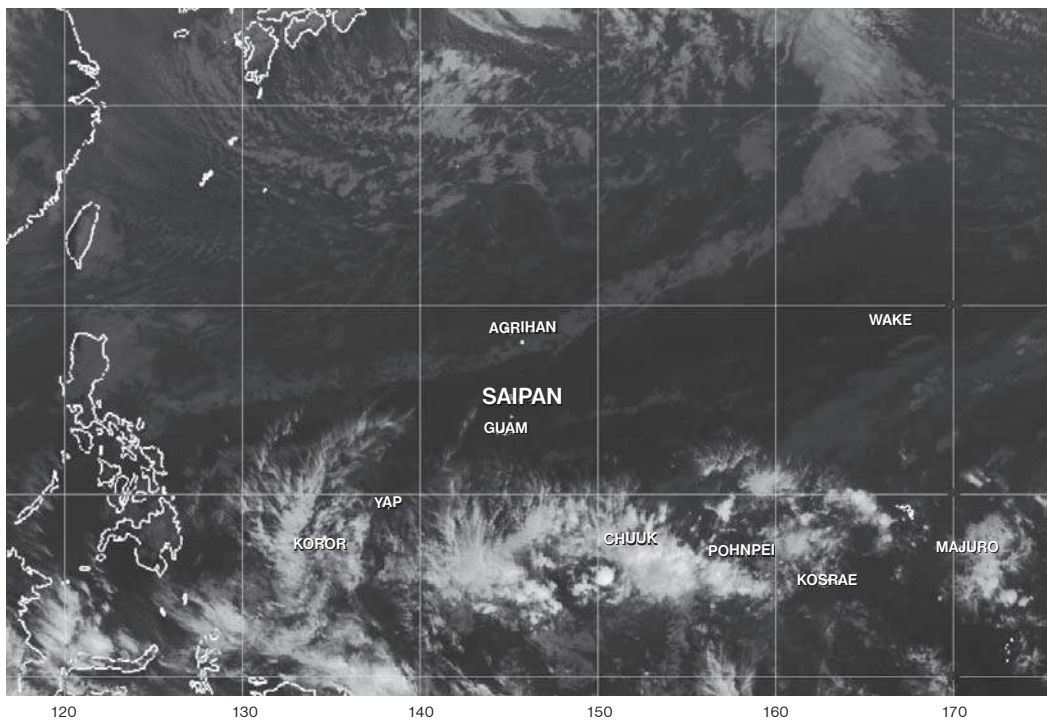
Jeanne Rayphand is legal counsel of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N160E to the Northern Mariana Islands at 18N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. Another shear line runs southwestward from 18N180E to end near Chuuk at 8N153E. Patchy showers and clouds are along and up to 250 miles northwest of this shear line. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 2N130E to a weak circulation centered south of Koror near 2N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Koror are between 7N and the equator from 130E to 138E. A surface trough runs northeastward from EQ146E to west of Pohnpei at 7N156E. Low-level convergence associated with this trough is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in several areas between 3N and 8N from 140E to 166E. This includes Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. A trade-wind trough is causing scattered showers near Majuro in a small area between 4N and 9N from 172E to 175E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼73
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼61
Beijing	Showers	▲45	▼31
Hong Kong	Showers	▲68	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
London	Rain	▲49	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲81	▼60
Miami	Sunny	▲60	▼40
New York	Windy	▲24	▼ 4
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲52	▼38
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼41
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼32
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲17	▼ 1

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
8:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:40 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:21 AM	7:41 AM
Saturday	8:11 AM	8:42 AM
Sunday	9:01 AM	9:41 PM
Monday	9:50 AM	10:40PM
Tuesday	10:39 AM	11:37 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Dailly via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

TOHA SUPERMARKET

FEBRUARY SWEET DEALS

FEBRUARY 20-28, 2015

7:00AM-11:00 PM (MON-SUN)

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
WE ACCEPT BANK OF GUAM PACIFIC EXPRESS

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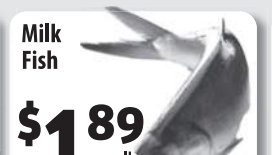

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MISGUIDED

From Page 11

period in our developmental history to engage introspective review of our decisions, indecisions and obvious lack of vision, leadership and genuine plans to move the livelihood of our people forward. After 36 years of alleged self-government we've amassed a huge deficit in the billions of dollars.

Have we ever looked into the consequences of D.C.'s growing "administrative state"? Is Kilili anywhere near D.C.? How about words of wisdom on this score, sir?

We had a seven-year period of guaranteed funding for basic infrastructure purposely earmarked to give us the opportunity to foster and enhance economic prosperity. Where did we go wrong? Is it in shortcomings in fiscal disposition? Isn't it in the fact that we never had a genuine plan to follow as a blueprint so we refine growth with constructive policies as we move forward?

Did we ever study why Asia became the geographic center of investments?

Take a cursory review of the cumulative deficit of the CNMI over the next 10 years and mirror it against current revenue generation or even generous budgetary projections. There's hardly any room for optimism or hope up that alley.

With a sense of humility, upholding time-honored culturally tested ethical foundation, we could begin organizing to address and resolve issues we've handled with grand failure. Must use creative thinking and a genuine plan of action, commitment to measurable success in order to build a healthy economy. After all, taxpayers deserve a government that respects and protects their time and money.

AMBIVALENT

From Page 10

take out Islamic State leaders, intelligence gathering, planning and other assistance.

Perhaps the bid to rule out "enduring offensive ground combat operations" is intended to collect the votes of Democrats who are wary of any combat operations. Nevertheless, Democrats are objecting to the scope of the resolution. And Republicans are objecting to the narrowness of the resolution.

Few people anticipate a substantial deployment of U.S. ground troops, "enduring" or not. But no one can predict how the war to defeat Islamic State will go. It's a chaotic situation, involving an unpredictable foe against a coalition that includes a feeble Iraqi force and a motley collection of militias in one of the most unstable regions of the globe.

Congress should give the president broader authority. Taking away options and setting a timetable constrains our ability, complicates later decision-making and helps the enemy.

Give the president the authority he needs, not the authority he seeks.

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How GOP's anti-immigrant stance will hurt the party

By ALVARO HUERTA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Republicans have recently escalated their assault on immigrants.

Earlier this year, the GOP-dominated House of Representatives voted to defund President Obama's executive order, Deferred Action for Parental Accountability, that grants temporary deportation reprieve for an estimated 5 million undocumented immigrants. Other provisions, if successful, would eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and increase the deportations of undocumented immigrants.

Since Obama, like his predecessors, has legal authority to implement executive orders without congressional approval, House Speaker John Boehner and fellow Republican leaders have striven to cut the funding sources of desperately needed relief programs for undocumented immigrants. Republicans have acted similar to the neighborhood kid with the football who takes the ball home because he doesn't like the rules of the game.

But while Republicans took control of the Senate in the 2014 elections, they lack the necessary 60 votes to ride roughshod over Obama. In early February, the defunding bill died in the Senate.

Obama's move to act on his own outwitted the Republicans by forcing them to take the blame, once again, for the lack of immigration reform. After experiencing tremendous heat from undocumented immigrants and their advocates for presiding over the deportation of more than 2 million immigrants, Obama had little choice but to attempt to regain the trust of Latinos. In response, Republican leaders quickly went on the offensive.

While their anti-immigrant strategy may gain them short-term gains with some white voters, Republicans will pay a high price at the ballot box in the long term. As we experience dramatic demographic changes in the United States, political leaders of both major parties must be cognizant of the needs of Latinos. Republican leaders have yet to learn this important lesson. Additionally, the fact that more than 1 million undocumented immigrants are Asian and Pacific Islanders is further bad news for Republicans.

If Republican leaders stubbornly pursue their anti-immigrant agenda, they will unwittingly become part of history by helping elect Hillary Clinton in 2016 as the first female president of the United States.

Alvaro Huerta is an assistant professor of urban and regional planning and ethnic and women's studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine.*

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,

With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PIC Saipan Management

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MHS students lament lack of teachers

I'm taking AP US History and today, my class has been added up with U.S. Government students. Some students are wasting their time taking U.S. History again. Their teacher has cancer and where is their substitute teacher? Why can't they use the money to hire a substitute teacher? I'm pretty sure if the commissioners are able to go to conferences then they're able to hire new teachers. These U.S. Government students haven't had a teacher for two weeks! In two weeks, they could have learned something instead of wasting their time doing nothing. So please, PSS, use your money wisely and hire more teachers. What happened to the phrase "Students first"? Hmm.

April Catagatan
Marianas High School

Our school, MHS, has lost some teachers due to situations we can't control. Don Cohen, one of our U.S. Government teachers, has fallen very ill, and is unable to teach for the rest of the school year. As a result of this, students are being transferred to other Social Studies classes, giving the teachers more students than they already have. This is a total detriment to not only the teachers but the students especially. How will we, the students, be able to get the attention we need from our teachers with a classroom filled with 40-50 students? How will we, the students, get a proper education? PSS should be giving us substitutes to ensure that the students gain the knowledge they need for the future. Why is PSS spending money on a gym (in Kobler) that we don't even need? What happened to "Students First"?

Negahr Rastguiy
Marianas High School

I m writing this letter because I am not happy that there are no substitute in MHS. For Mr. Cohen's class, they have been staying inside the class for about a week during the period because Mr. Cohen has cancer and isn't able to teach. We the students of MHS deserve to have proper education and we don't want to waste our time. We come to school to be educated, but how can we be educated when there are no teachers to educate us? Please give us the funding that our school needs to that we could hire substitutes.

Michael Cam
Marianas High School

I would like to inform you that our Public School System is out of line. Public Law 18-12 was recently passed and PSS was granted I believe 25 percent of government funding. Recently Mr. Cohen took leave for medical reasons and today his U.S. Government class was in my A.P. U.S. History class. The classroom was crammed and since they're different subjects, we couldn't do what we usually do. PSS got the money but where is it going? And what happened to "Students First"?

Rika Diaz
Marianas High School

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New XO Market – Middle Rd., Gualo Rai
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2 Titanic casino project investors found suitable

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission has found the two major investors in the Bridge Investment Group—Silvia Siu and Xianjun Meng—suitable investors for a casino license on Tinian.

"This is a major decision, and it is good news for both Bridge Investment Group and the people on Tinian," said commission chair Mathew Masga.

In order to obtain a license to own or operate a casino, investors need to undergo a background investigation to determine if they have the integrity and business acumen to run a casino. Bridge Investment Group met with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission through its investigating agent, Gaming Integrity Services, LLC in October 2014, and agreed at that time to a detailed "path forward" outlining the steps it and its investors had to take to become licensed.

The commission, through Gaming Integrity Services, conducted interviews in December and approved their financing plans. Silvia Siu and Xianjun Meng own an 80-percent equity interest in Bridge Investment Group and they went through the arduous suitability reviews in roughly three months time.

"The process went quickly and smoothly because [Bridge Investment's] investors were very cooperative and expeditiously submitted the application and background documents we required. The licensing process can go quick and easy when the applicant is cooperative, and not all applicants are," said Masga.

Bridge Investment Group plans on building a casino/hotel on Tinian that is a replica of the famous *Titanic* ocean liner that sank in the Atlantic Ocean in 1912.

"The Gaming Commission was very helpful and made the licensing process clear and painless," said Phillip Long, a representative of Bridge Investment. "All we had to do was follow the procedures set up by the commission. We thank the commission and its staff for making the process so painless."

The next step for Bridge Investment Group and its investors is to negotiate Section 16 Agreement on the time deadlines to begin construction of the casino and other details. ***(TCGCC)***

Songsong makes it to President's List

Crystal Songsong, an online student at Kaplan University, recently got recognized for the President's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must be enrolled in at least 10 quarter credit hours for that term and attain a GPA of 3.96 to 4.0.

Songsong is the daughter of Narcisa and Joaquin Songsong of Sadog Tasi, Saipan. She is an alumna of Kagman High School.

Songsong thanks the support of her family for encouraging her to continue her good academic standing at Kaplan University. She is graduating soon with an associate degree in Business Administration with an emphasis of Small Business Management, and will continue next year with a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration.

Kaplan University is one of the nation's top-ranked online bachelor's degree programs. The U.S. News & World Report has ranked Kaplan University's online bachelor's degree programs among the nation's best for the second consecutive year. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crystal Songsong, right, is shown here with Donald Seidler and their son Christopher Seidler.

Nigh named to Deans List

HUNTINGDON, PA—Juniata College has named 398 students to the dean's list for the 2014 fall semester. Each student must have at least a 3.6 grade average out of a possible 4.0.

Louie Richard Ueno Nigh of Saipan, the son of Richard L. Nigh and Yukari Ueno-Nigh and a 2011 graduate of GED Gen. Ed. diploma, was named to the 2014 fall dean's list.

Juniata College is a national liberal arts college located in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. With an enrollment of 1650, Juniata is a community dedicated to providing the highest quality liberal arts education. ***(PR)***

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Friday, January 30, 2015. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport, Project On. CPA-IFB-003-15". One original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Departure Terminal Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 am, Friday, February 13, 2015 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of bidder's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: January 23, 2015

Beautify My Marianas goes to Koblerville

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jordan Pangilinan, left, and seven friends collected trash along the road in Koblerville on Jan. 24, 2015, as part of the "Beautify My Marianas" program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority. Participants were Pangilinan, Jesse Salalila, Edson Yalung, Michael Andres, Mike Batangan, Glendon Saburo, Jeremi Monterejo, Jasper Colegio, and Reence Calage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eight high school friends cleaned up the roadside in Koblerville from St. Jude Church to the Mobil gas station on Jan. 24, 2015, as part of the "Beautify My Marianas" program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Eight friends from Marianas High School took the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program to Koblerville on Jan. 24, 2015, cleaning a mile of widely travelled—and heavily trashed—oadway.

"We collected betel nut spit bottles, stained shirts, and a box of butane gas. There was more that we collected that was so off the top," said participant Jordan R. Pangilinan in the group's post-action report. "One of our obstacles was facing those dogs chasing us through the side of the road, but that didn't stop us…"

The group picked up debris from St. Jude Parish to the Mobil gas station. Cleanup participants were Pangilinan, Jesse Salalila, Edson Yalung, Michael Andres, Mike Batangan, Glendon Saburo, Jeremi Monterejo, Jasper Colegio, and Reence Calage. The group treated themselves to pizza after their hard effort.

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers $100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Veronica Tanala Nical, 57

This is to announce the passing of Veronica Tanala Nical, who was born on July 9, 1957, and died on Feb. 15, 2015. She is survived by her common-law husband Daniel Miranda, children Michael Agao,Myline Agao, and Ronica Miranda; siblings, numerous relatives, and friends. Viewing will be at CHC Chapel on Feb. 21, 2015, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm, Mass at 2:30pm, and Christian burial at the Tanapag Cemetery. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Archaeological Recovery under Permit Application Number SMS-2015-X-006. The permit application was submitted by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC to conduct an archaeological recovery of cultural resources including clearing of existing vegetation, excavation, and erection of perimeter fence on the following lots- TD 1440, TR 21049, 144 D 01R/W and 104 D 04, in Garapan between Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center and Fiesta Resort.

The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, 2015, 6:00 PM at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality conference room, Suite 205, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments can also be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Archaeological Recovery in Garapan.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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USDA'S CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS

Pre-proposal grant application deadline nears

WASHINGTON—The deadline to submit pre-proposals for up to $1 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Innovation Grants is quickly approaching. Eligible state and local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations and individuals in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area and the Pacific Islands area must submit their pre-proposals by Feb. 24, 2015.

CIG funding this year can be used to help create innovative markets for carbon credits, provide additional revenue sources for producers and address natural resource conservation challenges. Approximately half of the $20 million total CIG funding is available for environmental markets and conservation finance projects that engage agricultural producers. USDA is seeking projects that will help mature environmental markets for water quality and greenhouse gases and bring them to scale to benefit both producers and the environment.

In past years, CIG has helped fund the development of the basic infrastructure of these markets. This year, USDA is seeking applications for projects that will further these efforts by maturing and scaling markets and increasing efforts to leverage private capital and investment in private lands conservation. Improved quantification tools, multi-resource crediting, and projects that substantively engage corporate or financial partners are activities that interest USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS administers CIG.

USDA is also soliciting proposals for projects to stimulate natural resource improvements, including improvements in water quantity, soil health, and wildlife habitat. Applications from this funding pool may also emphasize expected benefits to historically underserved producers, veterans, and organic producers. USDA also will accept applications in economics and sociology as they relate to natural resources.

Through CIG, USDA use Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds to award competitive grants to non-federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, Indian tribes, or individuals. The 2014 Farm Bill also included language that has led to some changes in this year's CIG funding announcement. One change eliminates the requirement that half the applicant's match must be in cash. Another expands eligibility for the 10 percent set-aside provision for historically underserved producers.

As in prior years, NRCS will accept pre-proposals for initial review before inviting entities to submit full proposals. Pre-proposals are due Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015. The full announcement of program funding is available at http://go.usa.gov/4Kvx. To apply electronically, visit http://www.grants.gov or contact a local NRCS office. ***(USDA)***

Organic farmers of the Pacific to support 2015 Year of Soils

Recognizing that soil is one of the essential elements for life, along with water, air and sunlight, organic farmers across the Pacific region will be actively supporting the 2015 United Nations International Year of Soils.

Through the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), organic farmers and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will be raising the awareness of civil society and decision-makers about the fundamental role of soils for human life.

"Soil isn't something people think about a lot, but it's the basis for our lives on this planet, from food to housing to clean water," the POETCom coordinator, Karen Mapusua, said.

"It takes around 2,000 years for just 10 centimeters of soil to be made through the earth's natural processes, but according to the University of New Mexico through poor management we are losing about 6.4 billion tons of soil globally each year"

"If we're going to be able to feed ourselves in the future we have to save our soils. There are over 5,000 certified organic farmers in the Pacific and many more using traditional organic practices that improve soil health and even build soil– these farmers play an important role in protecting our soils and ensuring food security," Mapusua said.

The campaign will include regular articles, info-graphics and YouTube clips available through the POETCom webpage *www.organicpasifika.com* , which will aim to promote effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources, as well as to provide everyone with simple things that we can all do to contribute to 'soil saving' and 'soil building'.

"You can join the campaign by sharing through your networks the resources and information we will be developing throughout the year, and which will be available on our Facebook page *Organic Pasifika,"* Mapusua said.

POETCom is a network of organic farmers and supporters across the Pacific islands region. POETCom works in partnership with European Union and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the secretariat is supported by SPC.

For more, visit: www.organicpasifika.com or Facebook/Organic Pasifika. ***(SPC)***

H.O.M.E. Visiting Program
(Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early Childhood)
What is the H.O.M.E. Visiting Program?
The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program is a free, voluntary, in-home service that can support you through the joys and challenges of pregnancy and parenting. The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program supports moms, dads, care-givers, and their families through a range of weekly to quarterly home visits with an assigned Family Partner Advocate (FPA).
What services are provided?
Family Partner Advocates will support and assist you with the following:
PRENATAL CARE PLANNING & EDUCATION
WHAT TO EXPECT AS YOUR CHILD IS GROWING
CARING FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY'S NEEDS
HOME SAFETY MEASURES
INFANT MASSAGE
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING & ACTIVITIES
JOB SEARCH
CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION
COMMUNITY RESOURCES YOUR FAMILY MAY BENEFIT FROM
How can I qualify?
A resident of Kagman, Koblerville, San Antonio, Dandan, and/or Garapan
Enroll Prenatally or
With a child no older than 3 months of age
A standardized screening tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and benefit from the program
For more information, please call:
Tel: (670) 236-8711
Email: hvpcnmi@gmail.com
gki great kids, inc.
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP. Established October 2011 COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
healthy families america
THIS AD WAS PAID FOR BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Congratulations to forensic winners

The following are regional competition winners:

Junior International Thespian Society:
- 1st Place, Monologue: Kelvin Wolf

Primary Grade Forensic Conference:
- 1st Place, Duo Interpretation: Jonathan Wolf and Lars Wolf
- 3rd Place, Humorous Interpretation: Jonathan Wolf
- 3rd Place, Readers Forum: Lars Wolf

Group to celebrate Int'l Mother Language Day

The Bangladesh Cultural Group will be celebrating the International Mother Language Day on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center auditorium, from 7pm to 9:30pm. International Mother Language Day is an observance held annually on Feb. 21 worldwide to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It was first announced by UNESCO on Nov. 17, 1999. The Bangladesh Cultural Group will mark the occasion with cultural performances and speeches. For more information, contact Rakibul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Cultural Group, at 483-4448 or Habib Ullah Badal, secretary, at 287-6065. ***(PR)***

Become a certified caregiver

The Ayuda Network, Inc./Commonwealth Respite Service Program is inviting family caregivers, child and adult daycare, and respite care providers to participate in a series of trainings in February and March 2015.

If you are interested in becoming a certified caregiver or provider for CRSP, call Ayuda Network, Inc. at 234-7469, 989-2576, or 287-0232, or email your reservation at: ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org or crsp.ayudanet@gmail.com to reserve your slot. Available slots are limited to first come, first serve and the deadline will be on Feb. 23, 2015.

For more information, call the Ayuda Network, Inc. or stop by at the office in Chalan Kanoa next door to Karidat Social Services between 7:30am and 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

OVR counselors to reach out to San Roque

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be holding an outreach session at San Roque Church Social Hall in San Roque village next Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, from 9am to 11am.

Individuals interested in applying for vocational rehabilitation services are encouraged to take advantage of this outreach activity. Normally, orientation and intake/application are conducted at the OVR office on Navy Hill on Tuesday at 9am. However, in an effort to increase its referral numbers, OVR is reaching out to unserved or underserved populations.

An applicant is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the individual: 1) has a disability; 2) has a physical or mental impairment which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment; and can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services; 3) requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, or retain employment; and 4) has legal status to allow employment in the CNMI or U.S.

OVR extends its appreciation to the Ayuda Network for coordinating and making the outreach possible.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority provides transportation service for a fee of $5/ride for the general public (riders without disabilities), or $3/ride for approved riders with disabilities and the elderly aged 55 and over. Schedule your ride at least one day in advance by calling COTA at 664-2690. You can call this reservation line from Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, and Saturday, 8am to 4pm. ***(OVR)***

AFCEA Marianas Technet 2015 opens registration for sponsors, exhibitors

Registration is now open for interested exhibitors and sponsors to the 7th AFCEA Marianas TechNet 2015, the annual gathering of U.S. Armed Forces leaders and industry movers in the fields of intelligence, security, and information and communications.

Hosted yearly by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Marianas Chapter, this year's conference and expo will be held from April 20 to 23, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Guam Hotel in Tumon.

This year's theme, "New Front Lines, Strategic Rebalancing in the Pacific," focuses on the Department of Defense's Strategic Rebalancing in the Pacific.

"TechNet 2015 provides the opportunity for participants to exchange information on topics that will be beneficial for them and our community as well as we embark on the Department of Defense's effort of strategic rebalancing in the Pacific," said Jonathan Richichi, AFCEA Marianas TechNet chair.

In line with the theme, presentations, panel discussions and break-out sessions are being planned to highlight the relocation of U.S. Marines, the Theatre High Altitude Area Defense unit assigned to Guam, and other forward military contingents that will be re-aligned to the region

"This being AFCEA Marianas' premiere event will allow industry leaders to network and share their vision of how technological advancements play a role in their respective industries," Richichi added.

For more information about registering in the 7th annual AFCEA Marianas Technet 2015, email Diane Martos at diane.martos@gmail.com and Norma Castillon at norma.castillon12@gmail.com. ***(AFCEA)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

- Feb. 23-26, from 8am to 7pm
- Feb. 27, from 8am to 1pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITIATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-CCC-042

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 03, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTSEWER SYSTEM PROJECT
Project No. CPA-TA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport Sewer System Project, No. CPA-TA-001-15, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes constructability review and overall construction management services. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 20, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA airport related projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with airport related projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for airport projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, MARCH 2, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 10, 2015

Legal Notice

If You Had a PlayStation Network, Qriocity, or Sony Online Entertainment Account Before May 15, 2011,

You Could Get Benefits from a Class Action Settlement.

A settlement has been reached with the Sony Entities in a class action lawsuit about the illegal and unauthorized attacks (the "Intrusions") in April 2011, on the computer network systems used to provide PlayStation Network ("PSN"), Qriocity, and Sony Online Entertainment ("SOE") services.

The Sony Entities deny any claims of wrongdoing in this case, and the settlement does not mean that the Sony Entities violated any laws or did anything wrong.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The Class includes everyone in the US (including its territories) who had a PSN account, a Qriocity account, or an SOE account at any time before May 15, 2011.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

There are various benefits, depending in part on what type of account(s) you had. Benefits you could get (if you qualify) include:

- Payment equal to paid wallet balances (if $2 or more) in PSN or SOE accounts that have been inactive since the Intrusions,
- One or more of the following: a free PS3 or PSP game, 3 free PS3 themes, or a free 3-month subscription to PlayStation Plus (once valid claims exceed $10 million, class members will still be eligible for one free month of PlayStation Plus),
- A free month of Music Unlimited for Qriocity accountholders who did not have a PSN account,
- $4.50 in SOE Station Cash (amounts will be reduced proportionally if valid claims exceed $4 million).

***Identity Theft Reimbursement*:** If you had out-of-pocket charges due to actual identity theft, and have documentation proving that the theft was caused by the Intrusion(s), you can submit a claim for reimbursement up to $2,500. Reimbursements will be reduced proportionally if the total amount payable on all valid claims would exceed $1 million.

HOW CAN YOU ASK FOR BENEFITS?

You need to file a claim to be eligible for benefits. Claim forms are available at WWW.PSNSOESETTLEMENT.COM or by calling 1-877-552-1284. The earliest deadline to file a claim is **August 31, 2015**, or 60 days after the settlement becomes final and effective. Visit the website for more details on submitting a claim online or by mail.

YOUR OTHER OPTIONS.

Even if you do nothing, you will be bound by the Court's decisions. If you want to keep your right to sue the Sony Entities yourself, you must exclude yourself from the Settlement Class by **April 10, 2015**. If you stay in the Settlement Class, you may object to the settlement by **April 10, 2015**. The detailed notice, available at the website or by phone, explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case on **May 1, 2015**, to consider whether to approve the settlement, and a request by Class Counsel for fees, costs, and expenses up to $2,750,000. You or your own lawyer may appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.

For More Information and Claim Forms
WWW.PSNSOESETTLEMENT.COM
1-877-552-1284

Business

For many in US, cash saved at gas pump is staying in pockets

WASHINGTON (AP)—In recent months, the stage seemed set for American consumers to do what they've traditionally done best: Spend money—and drive the economy.

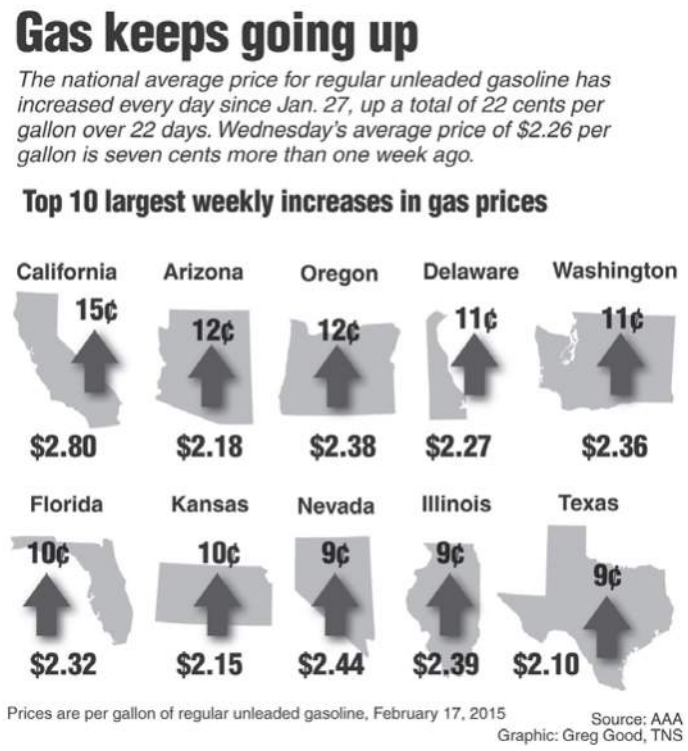
The lowest gas prices in five years had given people more spending money. Employers added over 1 million jobs from November through January, the best three-month pace in 17 years. Businesses even raised pay in December. Economists had forecast that last week's retail sales report for January would show a healthy rise.

And yet—to the surprise of analysts—consumers have held their wallets closely.

Even though Americans spent $6.7 billion less at gas stations in January than they had two months earlier, the extra cash didn't get spent anywhere else: Retail sales, excluding gas, fell slightly from November to January.

The unexpected pullback provided evidence that drivers had used their extra money to further rebuild their savings and reduce their debts—a trend that began after the financial crisis and recession.

In the long run, deeper savings and shrunken debts benefit individual households—and, eventually, even the economy as a whole, because they supply fuel for a sustained flow of future spending.


Gas keeps going up
The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline has increased every day since Jan. 27, up a total of 22 cents per gallon over 22 days. Wednesday's average price of $2.26 per gallon is seven cents more than one week ago.
Top 10 largest weekly increases in gas prices
California 15¢ $2.80
Arizona 12¢ $2.18
Oregon 12¢ $2.38
Delaware 11¢ $2.27
Washington 11¢ $2.36
Florida 10¢ $2.32
Kansas 10¢ $2.15
Nevada 9¢ $2.44
Illinois 9¢ $2.39
Texas 9¢ $2.10
Prices are per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline, February 17, 2015
Source: AAA
Graphic: Greg Good, TNS

For now, though, the slowdown in consumer spending likely means the economy will grow more slowly in the first quarter of the year than economists had previously envisioned. Their forecast now is for annualized growth of 2.5 percent from January through March, down from an earlier estimate of about 3 percent.

Greece: Loan extension request will satisfy Europe, Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis sounded cautiously optimistic Wednesday of achieving a last-minute deal with Greece's European creditors that would keep the country solvent and within the euro currency.

Greece's creditors have said the country has until Friday to request an extension to the 240 billion euro bailout that has kept Greece afloat since 2010 and whose main component expires on Feb. 28.

But the new government in Athens, elected last month on a promise to renegotiate the bailout's harsh spending cuts, has been adamant it cannot seek to extend a program it believes is wrong. Instead, Athens says it is preparing a request to extend its loan agreement, but not the austerity budget measures that accompanied the bailout.

The divide has threatened to scuttle negotiations and increased the risk of Greece having to leave the eurozone, raising concern among European governments and global markets.

"I want to believe that (the negotiations) will end well tomorrow, the day after tomorrow," Varoufakis said as he left Parliament Wednesday night. "We are on a good path. The negotiations are showing all the signs of convergence."

However, he said, "until we reach a result, nobody can be certain."

Delta employees earn more than $1B in profit sharing

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines employees received yesterday profit sharing as part of the company's $1.1 billion total payout for 2014—the largest payment in the company's history—in recognition for their industry-leading performance.

» Largest profit-sharing payment in company's history

"At Delta, we believe that people, values and culture drive our success," said Richard Anderson, Delta's chief executive officer. "We call it the 'Delta Difference.' It is essential for our employees to have an ownership stake in our business and share in the record-breaking achievements they helped create. Thank you to Delta's 80,000 people worldwide, who made 2014 an exceptional year by taking great care of our customers."

Total individual payouts will equal more than 16 percent of employees' eligible 2014 earnings, which equates to an average of nearly two months' salary. In October 2014, Delta paid a 5 percent advance on profit sharing to employees.

The 2014 payout is a record for the airline industry, and among the highest for any U.S. corporation.

In addition to profit sharing, Delta's Shared Rewards program pays out monthly bonuses for meeting corporate operational goals throughout the year.

In 2014, Delta employees earned more than $84 million in Shared Rewards as the company achieved history-making operational and financial results. Delta has paid out $2.9 billion to employees in profit sharing and Shared Rewards during the past five years. ***(Delta Air Lines)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project
RFP15-GOV-038

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to repair/replace the North Wing Elevator 1 at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package and scope of work will be available on Friday, February 20, 2015 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of $50.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package and scope of work.

A **mandatory** pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CHC Public Health conference room (first floor across the Volunteer's Gift Shop) on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative, CIP, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan or facsimile (670) 664-2408, no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, March 11, 2015.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a project approach and a schedule of completion, addressing the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished. The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	40%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work in the required time frame	20%
3.	Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	20%
4.	Cost	20%

Performance time to complete the repair/replacement of the CHC North Wing Elevator 1 project is 210 calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date. Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) proposers. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified proposer to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Payment and Performance Bonds in the amount of 100% of the total contract amount will be required by the contractor prior to award of the contract.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP15-GOV-038-Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, March 23, 2015 10:00 a.m. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, March 23, 2015, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, March 23, 2015, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 2, 2015. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
February 20, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC	02/05/2015 SMS-2015-X-006	Archaeological Recovery	Garapan	Major Siting	Certified Complete (02/19/2015)*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Nation

Man with bodies buried in his yard gets life in prison

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)—A jury on Wednesday spared the life of a man convicted of strangling a pharmacist and his girlfriend in 2002 and burying their bodies in his yard, granting a defense request to show mercy despite the brutal nature of the crimes.

Hugo Selenski, 41, was convicted last week on two counts of first-degree murder in the killings of Michael Kerkowski and Tammy Fassett during a robbery at the pharmacist's home. He showed no reaction to the jury's decision, which means he will serve life without parole. He will be formally sentenced next month.

One of Selenski's lawyers, Bernard Brown, said he was pleased with the decision to spare him.

"We're happy," he said. "We're relieved, not only for Hugo but for the family."

He said Selenski, who declined to comment, maintains his innocence and plans to appeal the guilty verdict.

Kerkowski's teenage son said after the jury's decision there is no winner.

"I will never have my father back," Connor Kerkowski tweeted. "but maybe now there can now be closure and justice for my family. Hugo can rot in jail."

Fassett's relatives showed no reaction in court and had no comment later.

Prosecutors had asked for a death sentence for Selenski, saying he and a co-conspirator brutally beat Kerkowski to compel him to reveal the location of tens of thousands of dollars he kept in his house and then used plastic-flex ties to strangle him and Fassett.

The pharmacist had pleaded guilty to running an illegal prescription drug ring and was about to be sentenced when he and Fassett were reported missing in 2002. About a year later, authorities found their decomposing bodies and at least three other sets of human remains on Selenski's property near Wilkes-Barre.

Prosecutors argued Kerkowski was tortured, one of the aggravating circumstances they urged jurors to consider in deciding Selenski's fate.

"The defendant has repeatedly used fear and lies and pain and death in order to obtain frivolous, material things," Sam Sanguedolce, Luzerne County first assistant district attorney, told jurors in his closing argument. "The defendant has earned his sentence."

Prosecutors and jurors declined to comment after the jury's decision was announced.

Selenski's attorney Edward "E.J." Rymsza begged the jurors to spare his client's life, asking them to ignore "voices of vengeance and retribution."

The defense tried to cast Selenski as a good father, brother and uncle even behind bars, with family members testifying earlier Wednesday that he wrote frequently and gave life advice.

Two of Selenski's daughters and four of his sisters spoke of their love for him, calling him an intelligent and caring man who's protective of his family, a portrait starkly at odds with the greedy, manipulative killer described in earlier trial testimony.

The two youngest sisters, both nursing students in their 20s, said he served as a father figure while briefly taking care of them more than a dozen years ago while their dad, now deceased, was ill.

Obama: US at war with those who have perverted Islam

WASHINGTON (AP)—Muslims in the U.S. and around the world have a responsibility to fight a misconception that terrorist groups like the Islamic State speak for them, President Barack Obama said Wednesday in his most direct remarks yet about any link between Islam and terrorism.

For weeks, the White House has sidestepped the question of whether deadly terror attacks in Paris and other Western cities amount to "Islamic extremism," wary of offending a major world religion or lending credibility to the "war on terror" that Obama's predecessor waged. But as he hosted a White House summit on countering violent extremism, the president said some in Muslim communities have bought into the notion that Islam is incompatible with tolerance and modern life.

Obama

"We are not at war with Islam," Obama said. "We are at war with people who have perverted Islam."

While putting the blame on IS and similar groups—Obama said the militants masquerade as religious leaders but are really terrorists—the president also appealed directly to prominent Muslims to do more to distance themselves from brutal ideologies. He said all have a duty to "speak up very clearly" in opposition to violence against innocent people.

"Just as leaders like myself reject the notion that terrorists like ISIL genuinely represent Islam, Muslim leaders need to do more to discredit the notion that our nations are determined to suppress Islam," Obama said.

Issuing such a direct challenge to Muslims marked a clear departure from the restrained, cautious language Obama and his aides have used to describe the situation in the past.

In the days after last month's shootings at a satirical French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, Obama avoided calling the attack an example of "Islamic extremism," and instead opted for the more generic "violent extremism." Recently, the White House also struggled to explain whether the U.S. believes the Afghan Taliban to be a terrorist organization.

The refusal to directly assess any Islamic role in the terrifying scenes playing out in Europe, the Mideast and Africa has drawn criticism from those who say Obama has prioritized political correctness over a frank acknowledgement of reality.

ACROSS THE NATION

Oregon couple accused of letting their baby starve to death

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon couple involved in online pornography was arraigned Wednesday on murder by abuse charges alleging they let their baby starve to death. Stephen Michael Williams Jr., 26, and Amanda Marie Hancock, 21, of the small timber town of Glendale, are accused of causing the death of their 7-week-old son through neglect and maltreatment. The two were ordered held without bail when they appeared in Douglas County Circuit Court in Roseburg, Deputy District Attorney Shannon Sullivan said. No pleas were entered. Judge Stephen Tiktin authorized a court-appointed attorney, but the public defender's office has not named the attorney yet, Sullivan added.

Dentist charged in death of patient getting 20 teeth pulled

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A dentist has been charged in the death of a patient who became unresponsive while having 20 teeth pulled and several implants installed. Rashmi Patel turned himself in Tuesday at the Enfield Police Department and was charged with a misdemeanor count of criminally negligent homicide and a felony count of tampering with evidence, police said. Patel has offices in Enfield and Torrington. The charges came a year after Patel's patient Judith Gan died at a hospital on Feb. 17, 2014. State dental regulators concluded that Patel failed to adequately respond when Gan's oxygen levels dropped dangerously low as she was consciously sedated in the middle of the tooth extraction and implant procedures in his Enfield office that day. Patel, who posted $25,000 bail, has denied any wrongdoing in his treatment of Gan.

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World

Embattled Debaltseve falls to Ukraine rebels; troops retreat

By BALINT SZLANKO and JIM HEINTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARTEMIVSK, Ukraine (AP)—Government soldiers pulled out of a ferociously contested railway hub in eastern Ukraine Wednesday, ending a siege so intense the retreating troops said they couldn't get water or food amid relentless shelling by Russian-backed separatists. At least six soldiers were killed in the withdrawal and more than 100 wounded.

President Petro Poroshenko sought to portray the fall of Debaltseve in a positive light, saying the pullback was carried out "in a planned and organized manner," despite assertions by exhausted and dirt-caked soldiers, some of whom made their way out on foot, that their forces suffered heavy losses.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

No matter the circumstances, the retreat appeared to be an acceptance by the Ukrainian leader of a humiliating defeat in exchange for a chance at pushing a shaky truce agreement forward and securing the pullback of heavy weapons.

The loss of Debaltseve was a serious setback for the army. The town is a strategic railroad junction that lies on the most direct route between the separatist east's two major cities, Donetsk and Luhansk. By taking control of it, rebels gain significant transportation connections to boost their regions' capacity to function as a unified entity.

Its strategic importance kept the battle raging even after a cease-fire between Ukrainian forces and the Russia-backed rebels went into effect Sunday and appeared to be mostly holding elsewhere after fighting that has killed more than 5,600 people since April.

Relinquishing the town could remove the major impediment to a lasting cease-fire and begin the next step that was agreed to in a peace deal last week—the pullback of heavy weapons by both sides to create a buffer zone at least 50 kilometers (30 miles) wide.

But the images of traumatized soldiers and their stories of deprivation will be another wound to a national psyche already bruised by Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula last March and the vicious fighting in the east, where Ukrainian forces suffered heavy losses at the hands of rebels they and the West claim got a huge boost from Russian equipment and troops.

Semyon Semenchenko, a battalion commander and a member of parliament, accused the military command of betraying the country's interests in Debaltseve.

Islamic State militants find a foothold in chaotic Libya

CAIRO (AP)—Libya, virtually a failed state in recent years, has succeeded in one way: It's providing a perfect opportunity for the Islamic State group to expand from Syria and Iraq to establish a strategic foothold closer to European shores.

Extremists loyal to the group have taken control of two Libyan cities on the Mediterranean coast, have moved toward oil facilities and are slowly infiltrating the capital, Tripoli, and the second-largest city, Benghazi. They have siphoned off young recruits from rival militant groups linked to al-Qaida and in some places taken over those groups' training camps, mosques and media networks.

Notably, there appears to be strong coordination between the Libya branch and the group's central leadership in Syria and Iraq. One of its top clerics, Bahraini Turki al-Binali, has visited the Libyan city of Sirte to preach: in 2013 and again at the end of last year, soon before it fell into the hands of the group's supporters, according to a rival militia official based there. The official spoke on condition of anonymity for fear for his life.

A video released last week showing the beheading of a group of Egyptian Christians abducted from Sirte was produced by the IS media branch.

About 400 mostly Yemeni and Tunisian fighters are in Sirte, according to Libyan Interior Minister Omar al-Sinki. The militia official said Islamic State fighters have set up headquarters in the city's convention complex, the Ouagadougou Center, built by former dictator Moammar Gadhafi as a symbol of his secular regime's aspirations to be a pan-African leader. An Associated Press reporter who briefly visited Sirte on Wednesday saw masked militants deployed along the main road linking the convention center to downtown.

The close connection between the Libya branch and the central leadership around Islamic State chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi underscores the strategic importance of the North African country to the group. Libya boasts oil resources—something the extremists have exploited for funding in Iraq and Syria. There are vast amounts of weapons, a legacy of the turmoil since Gadhafi's 2011 ouster. Its borders with Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria are porous.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) RUNWAY VACUUM SWEEPER** to the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Runway Vacuum Sweeper to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new manually operated runway vacuum sweeper for the Saipan International Airport designed especially for use in cleaning pavements to remove debris, dirt and dust from routed cracks of the pavement, all in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, February 13, 2015**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer
Date: January 20, 2015

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2015-002
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

"ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS"

The Acting Chairman of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals for the DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS.

Proposal packets will be available on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on Tuesday, March 03, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Any Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed enveloped marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled **"NMHC RFP 2015-002"**, to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2015.**

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/Tom Glenn Quitugua
Acting Chairman
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director
Procurement and Supply

Off The Wall

Man sells watch he found at secondhand store for $35K

PHOENIX (AP)—A watch collector spotted a rare Swiss timepiece in a Phoenix secondhand store, bought it on sale for $5.99 and then sold it for $35,000.

Zach Norris said he went to a Goodwill store in January to look for a golf cart but took some time to peruse the watch section.

It proved to be time well-spent.

Norris said he was excited when he recognized the 1959 Jaeger-LeCoultre diving watch, he told KTVK-TV.

"I've found some stuff in the past that I have been really excited about and stoked, but this is one of those things you're like, 'One day, one day it will happen,' and it happened for me," Norris told the TV station.

Norris took his purchase to a dealer for the brand, Oliver Smith Jeweler in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale. The business' watchmaker authenticated the timepiece, Vice President Paul White said.

The watch was "worn, but not badly worn, certainly wearable," White said.

Norris announced his find on a website for watch collectors, and a San Francisco enthusiast gave Norris $35,000 plus a less valuable watch.

Asked about the price tag, White said it was "market-driven." The watch was part of a production run of about 1,000 and "a rare enough piece" that it would have garnered interest among collectors, White said.

Norris says the proceeds will help pay for his wedding.

The discovery shows there are deals to be had at the thrift stores, Goodwill spokeswoman Summer Dunham said.

"We're happy for him," Dunham said.

Arrested Romanian ex-minister petitions to wallpaper her cell

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—A former Romanian tourism minister in detention on corruption charges has asked to be allowed to wallpaper and paint her cell walls.

Marius Stribulea, lawyer to Elena Udrea, said his client, one of the most influential Romanian politicians in the past decade, wanted to renovate her current accommodation.

"As you know the conditions are not the best," he said Tuesday. Mediafax reported that the flamboyant 41-year-old politician wanted to wallpaper her cell walls, as well as paint the bars and radiator.

Stribulea said Bucharest police will examine the request, but it appeared her desires won't be met: A court ruled late Tuesday that Udrea would be put under house arrest while being investigated.

Udrea was arrested last week for 30 days on charges of influence peddling, taking bribes and money laundering. She denies wrongdoing.

AP

In a photo taken on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015, Elena Udrea, a 41-year-old Romanian politician who gained notoriety due to her close relationship with Traian Basescu, Romania's president from 2004 to 2014, is escorted by policemen as she exits, handcuffed, the anti-corruption prosecutor's office in Bucharest, Romania.

She was criticized for her close ties with Traian Basescu, Romania's president from 2004 to 2014. She ran for president in November elections, finishing fourth.

Judge officiates Wyoming man's marriage, then sentences him

CODY, Wyo. (AP)—A Wyoming man's "I do" wasn't followed by a kiss, cake or honeymoon but a prison sentence for an August crime spree.

Israel Silva, 25, wore an orange jail jumpsuit and shackles when District Judge Steven Cranfill wed Silva and Ivy Koryne Smith, 19, of Powell in a Cody courtroom last week.

"There will be no, 'You can kiss the bride,' or whatever they say when people get married," Silva's defense attorney, Sarah Miles, said before her client's impromptu wedding on Feb. 11 in Park County's District Court.

Smith stayed 15 feet away from Silva to comply with the jail's "no contact" rules, the Powell Tribune reported.

The ceremony lasted for about a minute, and the judge directed them to take their seats for Silva's sentencing hearing.

Cranfill sentenced Silva to six to 10 years in prison for a drunken crime spree in which he stole and crashed two pickup trucks, used a gun he found in one of the pickups to fire shots at other vehicles in Powell and led officers on a chase that reached speeds of up to 110 mph.

The chase ended when Silva ran over irrigation pipe and got stuck in a muddy barley field.

At the time, Silva was free on bond on a misdemeanor charge.

Silva pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary, property destruction and a third conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol. Other charges were dismissed.

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Please contact Maya B. Kara at 233-0081
or roninsaipan@gmail.com.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NY tourism site that urged visitors to go to Florida crashes

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP) -- A New York tourism office's suggestion that potential visitors should go to the Florida Keys instead has ended up crashing its website. Bruce Stoff of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau tells The Associated Press on Wednesday that the office's overwhelmed server crashed Tuesday afternoon, not long after the AP reported on his agency's stunt. On Sunday, Visitithaca.com posted images of Key West and provided links to Florida Keys websites. The Ithaca site said, "We surrender" and "Winter, you win" and suggested that a visit to Key West was a better option than frozen central New York. Stoff says his office removed the Florida link because the nearly 150,000 views crashed the website. The upside: Stoff says his office fielded numerous inquiries about tourism in upstate New York.

Sea lion pup hitches ride on family's kayak in California

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) -- A family out for a kayak trip in California picked up an unexpected hitchhiker: a sea lion pup that hopped on for a 20-minute ride. Video aired by KEYT-TV shows the little sea lion enjoying the sunshine on the back of the kayak in Santa Barbara on Saturday. The family from Orange County says the sea lion hopped up and made itself comfortable, even cuddling up with the dad as he paddled with his kids. A crowd gathered on the pier to watch as the pup relaxed and enjoyed the journey.

Robert Tenorio Torres — F0197
PO Box 503758
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Fax: 670-234-5749
Email: rttlaw@pticom.com

Attorney for Petitioner Jessica M Kisa

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JESUS LIZAMA KISA, Deceased.) Civil Action) No. 15-005)) INITIAL HEARING) ON PETITION FOR) PROBATE OF WILL) AND APPOINTMENT) OF EXECUTRIX and) NOTICE TO CREDITORS) Date: March 17, 2015) Time: 1:30 pm) Judge: Hon. David A. Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JESUS LIZAMA KISA OR HIS ESTATE:

The hearing on the Petition for Probate of Will and Appointment of Executor in the above-styled matter has been set for March 17, 2015, at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia/Iimwaal Aweewe/House of Justice, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against Jesus Lizama Kisa or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication. If the claim is not presented or filed within that time frame, the claim will be forever barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**.

Dated January 16, 2015.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ATKINS KROLL, INC., Plaintiff, -v- CARMEN L. MUNA, aka CARMEN FUJIHIRA, and CINDY L. MUNA, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 93-0347] and consolidated cases] (S.C. Nos. 92-415, 92-517,] 92-604, 92-660, 92-674,] 92-680, 92-718, 92-825,] 92-826, 92-829, 92-1073,] 92-1325, 92-1420, 92-1484,] 92-1494, 9-1563, 93-147,] 93-156, 93-163, 95-411,] 95-701, 97-987, 99-258,] 01-1322, and 02-768)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Carmen L. Muna, fka Carmen Fujihira, and Edwin P. Fujihira, in and to the following property:

Lot No. 002 G 216, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,037 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 06 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1903 dated May 14, 1990.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2015:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- HENRY O. OGO, Defendant.] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 07-0436

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 345 R 321, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 950 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 07 dated July 1, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2015:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION NO.] 13-0067

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 27, 2015, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1980, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 31st day of January, 2015:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Name: Jellymay Max Blas
San Antonio
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-5263 or
(670) 484-2070

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: Jellymay Max Blas, Petitioner,] FCD CN CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 15-0060]] NOTICE OF] HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 5, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

DATED, this 10th day of February, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Life & Style

Neil Patrick Harris welcomes a Kanye moment at the Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris might use his job as Oscar host as a way to meet his favorite stars.

"I have, essentially, an all-access pass to the theater," Harris said during a recent interview. "So I love being able to stand there and say hello to people I've never met before. I'm very easily star struck, so it'll be very exciting to shake hands with celebrities."

Harris has hosted the Emmys twice and the Tony Awards four times—and has won both awards. On Sunday, he takes on his first Oscar show. The multitalented entertainer took a few minutes between rehearsals to talk with The Associated Press about his plans for the big night.

Harris

AP: How is preparing to host the Oscars different from the Tonys or Emmys?

Harris: I want to make sure my content is inclusive of everyone watching, and more people watch the Oscars than any other awards show probably combined. I have more filters probably, in terms of content... The Oscars—it's ritual for many people. They see it every single year, and all around the world. So I want to be a little classier and try to be a bit more mainstream while trying to maintain a wink and a nod to those in the know.

AP: You watched all the past Oscar hosts as part of your research. Who stood out for you, and who would you most like to emulate?

Harris: My initial answer would probably be Billy Crystal. I was just the right age to be so taken by movies as an idea, and he had such joy and exuberance about the world of film... But as I've done more research, I'm more even impressed now by the older-school generation of Johnny Carson, Bob Hope, and their ability to stand in one place and make (people) feel comfortable just in their demeanor. Because it's a very classy night—everyone's in their tuxedoes and fancy dresses—so I'm hoping to make it feel like an A-list dinner party that you get to come and attend.

AP: How nervous are you?

Harris: Well, my job as host is to not be nervous when the show is happening. But I think, in life, being nervous about something that's forthcoming is very helpful, whether it's an awards show or a family gathering or a job interview. If you're too calm and confident, then I think you aren't executing to the best of your ability. So I try not to let nerves get the best of me, but I welcome them because it tends to fuel me to try harder.

AP: What are you most excited about for the evening?

Harris: I'm hoping that we come in just under five hours. If we can beat that mark, then I feel like it's a success.

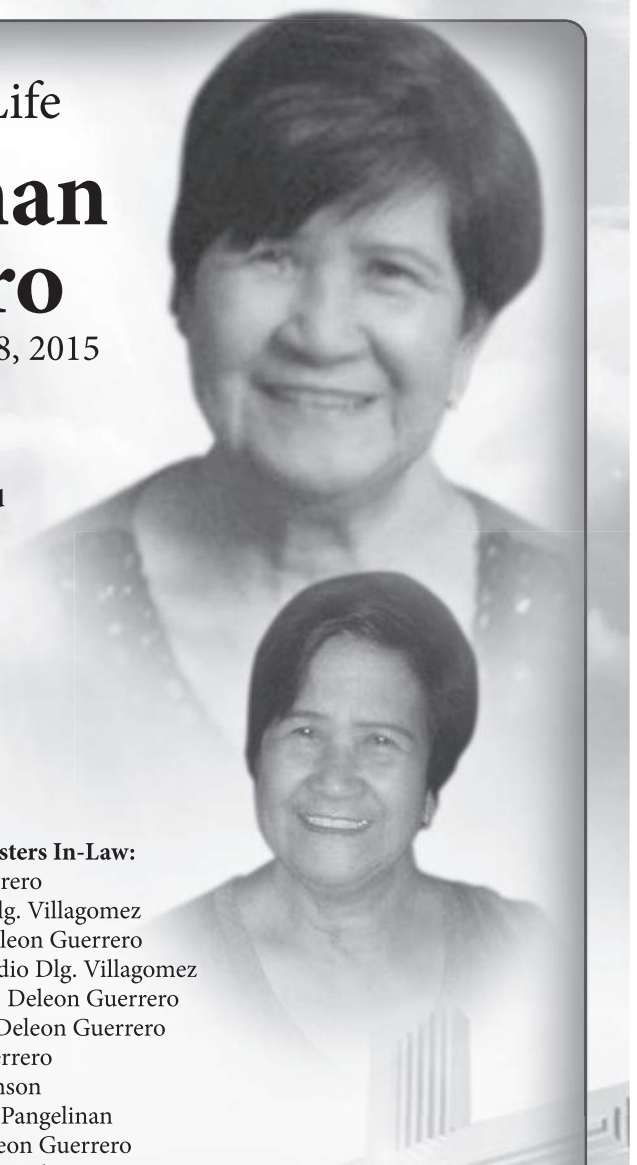
AP: Have you prepared for the possibility of Kanye West coming onstage?

Harris: I think the security at "Saturday Night Live" is still holding him in his seat there from last (week's) show. So, fingers crossed, he's detained in New York City. No, nothing would make me happier than something as random as that, as Kanye West deciding to participate in the show in some way. That's why you want to watch the Oscars. We hope for things to happen that you'll only experience by watching it... The crazier the better, as far as I'm concerned.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Rufina Pagtakhan Deleon Guerrero

Born: August 19, 1944 Died: February 18, 2015



In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: **†Marcelo A. Pagtakhan and †Segunda SJ. Advento Pagtakhan**
Parents In-Law: **†Guillermo Cabrera Deleon Guerrero and †Juana Aguero Deleon Guerrero**

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of Her:
Husband: Roman "Kobe" Aguero Deleon Guerrero
Children and Grandchildren:
Deborah Taitano (Dominic, Draven, Dylan)
Lynette and Kevin Castro (Kasey, Kaya)
Lavina and Jeffrey DelaCruz (Jasmine, Jayda, Jackie, Jared)
Alma and Patrick Sablan (Bryce, Madison, Colin)
Eva and Steven (Cody, Kara)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Adelaida P. and †Fidencio Polidario
Rustico A and †Wilma Pagtakhan
Mario A. and †Dolly Pagtakhan
Donato A. and Sandra Pagtakhan
Emma P. and †Augusto Dames
Lina P. and Tito Yancha
Pedro A. and Elizabeth Pagtakhan
Lito A. and Yolanda Pagtakhan
Leila P. and Rogelio Consignado
Andreo A. and Beth Pagtakhan
Cecilia P. and Bernardo Puserio

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-Law:
†Paqual A. Deleon Guerrero
†Daniel and †Rosario Dlg. Villagomez
†Vicente A. and Nita Deleon Guerrero
†Antonio T. and †Remedio Dlg. Villagomez
Larry A. and †Frances S. Deleon Guerrero
Jesus A. and Victoria T. Deleon Guerrero
Angelina A. Deleon Guerrero
Ron and Mariana A. Hanson
†John and Ramona Dlg. Pangelinan
†Joe A. and Bang'on Deleon Guerrero
†Takeo and Lourdes Dlg. Nakazato
Diego Deleon Guerrero and Bernadita Urumelog

She will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated for the repose of her soul at St Jude Thaddeus Church in Koblerville at 6:00p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel 7:30am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment Services will take place at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat, Thank You

Roman "Kobe" A. Deleon Guerrero
Children, Grandchildren and Family

Oscar spotlight draws attention to industry diversity issue

AP
In this March 2, 2014 file photo, Lupita Nyong'o accepts the award for best actress in a supporting role for "12 Years a Slave" during the Oscars in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a year ago that Lupita Nyong'o, shortly before winning the Academy Award for best supporting actress in "12 Years a Slave," gave a speech about what she called "dark beauty."

Nyong'o, who so dazzled Hollywood and the Oscar-viewing public through awards season, spoke tenderly of receiving a letter from a girl who had been about to lighten her skin before Nyong'o's success, she said, "saved me." The letter struck Nyong'o because she recognized herself in that girl: "I remember a time when I too felt unbeautiful. I put on the TV and only saw pale skin."

The Mexican-born, Kenyan-raised actress was a central part last year to an Academy Awards flush with faces uncommon to the Oscar podium.

What a difference a year makes.

This year's Oscars repeat a stubborn pattern that has plagued the Academy Awards throughout its history: Whenever change seems to come, a frustrating hangover follows. "Every 10 years, we have the same conversation," Spike Lee, a regular witness to the sporadic progress, has said.

Seldom have such fits and starts been starker than this Oscars, coming a year after a richly diverse Oscar crop. In Sunday's Academy Awards, all 20 acting nominees are white, a result that prompted some to declare that they would boycott this year's ceremony.

The lack of nominations for "Selma" director Ava DuVernay and star David Oyelowo were a particular flashpoint, viewed by many as unjust oversights not only because they merited honoring, but because their absences furthered an ignoble Oscar history.

"I was surprised but then I wasn't," said Darnell Hunt, a UCLA professor and director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, who co-authored a 2014 diversity report on the film and TV industries. "What we saw in terms of the nominations this year was business as usual. What we got was more or less an accurate reflection of the way the industry is structured and the way the academy is populated."

Official: Video shows Jenner rear-ended cars in fatal wreck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Video shows Bruce Jenner started a chain-reaction crash that resulted in a woman's death on a Malibu highway, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Jenner was hauling an off-road vehicle on a trailer behind his Cadillac Escalade on Feb. 7 when he steered to avoid cars slowing for a traffic light in front of him on Pacific Coast Highway, the official said.

Jenner's SUV rear-ended two cars, pushing a Lexus into oncoming traffic, the official added.

The driver, Kim Howe, 69, was killed when it was struck head-on by a Hummer.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is investigating the cause of the wreck and will consider whether to issue a citation that could result in criminal charges.

The official briefed on the video was not authorized to speak publicly and talked to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The official said the video taken by cameras on an MTA bus in the area showed Jenner's vehicle continued forward and rear-ended a Toyota Prius. Officials initially said the Lexus had struck the Prius.

TMZ was the first to report on the bus video.

Another video taken from a gas station showed traffic piling up along the involved stretch of the Pacific Coast Highway ahead of a stoplight.

Investigators have sought cellphone records to see if any drivers were distracted, but the video appears to show that Jenner was not using his phone. His publicist, Alan Nierob, has said Jenner was not texting and is cooperating with investigators.

The 1976 Olympic decathlon champion better known these days as Kim Kardashian's stepfather passed a field sobriety test and also submitted a blood sample to determine if he was intoxicated.

Nierob did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday.

AP

Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies investigate the scene of a collision involving three vehicles in Malibu, Calif. on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015. Officials said former Olympian Bruce Jenner was a passenger in one of the cars involved in the Pacific Coast Highway crash that killed one person. Jenner's publicist, Alan Nierob, says Jenner was unhurt.

2 Nicki Minaj tour members stabbed outside bar, 1 fatally

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A fight and stabbing outside a bar early Wednesday left one member of Nicki Minaj's tour dead and another in critical condition.

The tour members had flown into Philadelphia for rehearsals two days earlier, Minaj wrote on Twitter.

Police said the two men were stabbed in the city's West Oak Lane section. They identified the man who died as Devon Pickett, of New York City. The identity of the other man hadn't been disclosed.

Pickett, who was 29, suffered multiple stab wounds and was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at a hospital, police said. The other man, who's 27, was stabbed in the left side and arm, they said.

Both were taken to the hospital by car before police arrived at the Che' Bar and Grill, police said.

Police said the fight began when a man started arguing with the victims inside the bar at about 2 a.m. and pulled a knife once they got outside.

Minaj posted a link to a TV report on the bar stabbings.

"Another senseless act of violence that took the life of a great guy. So sad," Minaj wrote.

Minaj's tour begins March 16 in Europe, according to her website. The rapper, who was born in Trinidad and grew up in New York, is known for such hits as "Anaconda" and "Bang Bang," her pop song with Jessie J and Ariana Grande.

Take a look—Dr. Seuss has a new book

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 20 years after his death, there is still plenty of news about Dr. Seuss.

Random House Children's Books said Wednesday it will publish a recently discovered manuscript with illustrations called "What Pet Should I Get" on July 28. The publisher plans at least two more books, based on materials found in 2013 in the author's home in La Jolla, California, by his widow and secretary.

The author whose real name was Theodor Geisel died in 1991.

Random House associate publishing director Cathy Goldsmith says "What Pet Should I Get?" was likely written between 1958 and 1962. The book features the same brother and sister seen in Dr. Seuss' 1960 classic "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish."

Vanilla Ice released after being charged in Florida burglary

AP

In this Nov. 8, 2013 file photo, recording Artist Vanilla Ice arrives at the 2013 Soul Train Awards at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

LANTANA, Florida (AP)—Vanilla Ice has been released from custody in Florida after being arrested and charged with breaking into and stealing from an abandoned home.

Police in Lantana say the recording artist and home-improvement-show host had been renovating a home next to the victim's. They said some of the stolen items were found at his property.

Vanilla Ice, whose real name is Robert Van Winkle, rose to fame with the hit "Ice Ice Baby." He also hosts DIY Network's "The Vanilla Ice Project."

The 47-year-old was charged Wednesday with burglary of a residence and grand theft and taken into custody. He was released from the jail Wednesday night on a $6,000 bond.

He told TV station WPTV that the situation was a "misunderstanding" that's been "blown out of proportion."

Police: Rapper Afroman punches female fan on stage

BILOXI, Miss. (AP)—Rapper Afroman punched a female fan on stage during a concert and was charged with simple assault, police said.

Afroman, who is best known for his Grammy-nominated hit "Because I Got High," was arrested Tuesday night and his show in Biloxi show was canceled. He was later released after posting $330 bond, said Biloxi Police Chief John Miller.

A video posted online showed a woman dancing next to Afroman as he was playing guitar and him punching her, knocking her off her feet.

The 40-year-old rapper, whose real name is Joseph Foreman, apologized on his Facebook page and later told TMZ that two women had been dancing on stage and a man had been heckling him throughout the show. He said he thought they had left the stage, and when someone bumped him, he thought it was the man.

"I thought it was that guy," he said.

He said the early show during Mardi Gras gave him anxiety and he didn't have time to eat dinner and "medicate, get right."

"I had my frustrations to make a long story short," he told TMZ.

Chase Taylor, who owns Kress Live where the rapper was performing, said the concert was stopped.

"Afroman was about five songs into his set when the incident occurred. We pulled the plug on him, and security met him at the bottom of the stage to escort him outside, where he was taken into custody," Taylor said.

Curious wife finds a surprise in husband's medical records

DEAR ABBY: I recently started working at the hospital where my husband receives his primary care. One afternoon, out of curiosity, I accessed his medical records. In his file it was noted that he is high risk for STDs. In fact, he was treated for two different ones some years back.

I have been tested for STDs during all my annual physicals, and the results were always negative. I think it's because we often go for weeks without any sexual contact.

What should I do with this information? How do I talk to him about it without letting him know that I'm aware of his medical history?

CONCERNED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR CONCERNED: Unless you claim to be clairvoyant, I don't see how you can discuss this without admitting you accessed his medical records, which is against the law. Be prepared for him to be irate, because the best defense is a strong offense. You are lucky your husband hasn't given you an STD.

By all means talk with him about this, if only to find out whether you have sex so infrequently because he's having relations with other people. Now that you know what has been going on, you have some serious thinking to do about staying in this marriage.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I had an abusive boyfriend who, I realized later, had abused his wife and children. After we broke up, my close friend and neighbor asked me if I'd mind if she went out with him. I initially said no, but after thinking about it, I thought how could she? She knew how he had treated me, pushing, shoving and isolating me from my friends.

I had words with her about it, and she said she wasn't there, so she didn't know if it really happened. What kind of a woman wouldn't support me?

He is over there often, and I live right next door. I am furious with her. Do I have a right to be?

ALICE IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR ALICE: Your friend must be desperate for male companionship, or incredibly naive in failing to recognize that what happened to you (and the man's former wife) won't also happen to her. Please don't waste your time being angry. You are lucky to be rid of your abuser and should be grateful you realized he was one before he caused you physical harm.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A woman I know has a husband who is deployed. I would like to send her a card offering support and love, to tell her how thankful I am for both of their sacrifices in the service of our country.

Can you assist with wording and other ideas on how I can be supportive? She lives far away, so this will all be long distance. I don't want to come across wrong or say something that could offend.

I ran across an article the other day on what NOT to say to military wives, and I'm afraid I may have committed a faux pas and don't want to do it again.

CIVILIAN IN IOWA

DEAR CIVILIAN: If you think you "may" have committed a breach of etiquette, pick up the phone, call the woman and offer an apology. Explain that you read an article about what not to say to military wives, and hope you didn't offend her. Offer to stay in touch—if that's what she would like—so you can let her know she and her husband are in your thoughts, and let her suggest other ways you might be helpful even though you are geographically distant.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I NO LONGER WISH TO BE CALLED A "BOY."
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ARE?
YES, BUT I FIND THAT TERM DEMEANING AND SEXIST.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE CALLED THEN?
A "CHROMOSOMALLY ADVANTAGED YOUTH."
"THAT MAY NOT CATCH ON.

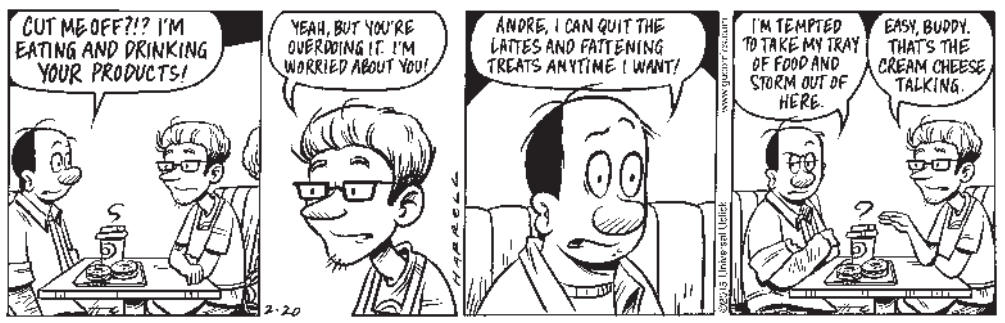
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I THINK I'LL DO SOMETHING RUGGED AND MANLY
LIKE WHAT?
MOW THE LAWN WITH MY SHIRT OFF!
I'M STUCK
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CUT ME OFF?!? I'M EATING AND DRINKING YOUR PRODUCTS!
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE OVERDOING IT. I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
ANDRE, I CAN QUIT THE LATTES AND FATTENING TREATS ANYTIME I WANT!
I'M TEMPTED TO TAKE MY TRAY OF FOOD AND STORM OUT OF HERE.
EASY, BUDDY. THAT'S THE CREAM CHEESE TALKING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

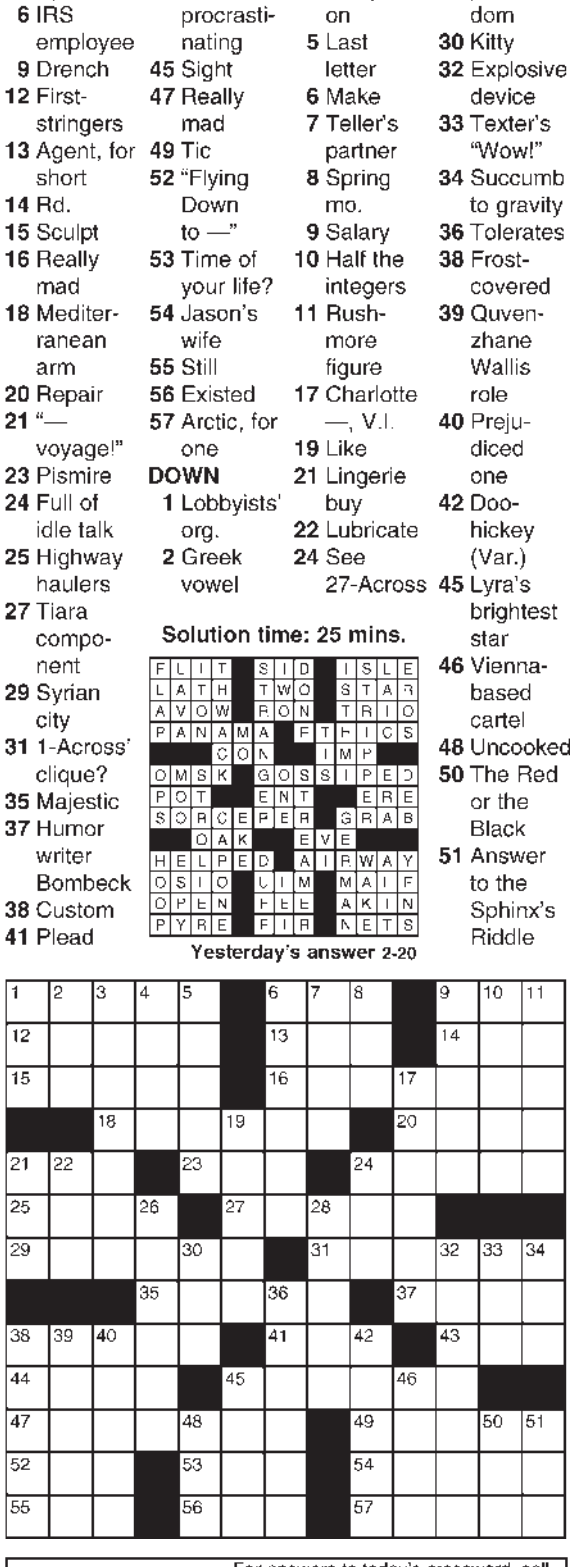
ACROSS
1 Peter, in Spain
6 IRS employee
9 Drench
12 First-stringers
13 Agent, for short
14 Rd.
15 Sculpt
16 Really mad
18 Mediterranean arm
20 Repair
21 "— voyage!"
23 Pismire
24 Full of idle talk
25 Highway haulers
27 Tiara component
29 Syrian city
31 1-Across' clique?
35 Majestic
37 Humor writer Bombeck
38 Custom
41 Plead
43 Early bird?
44 Not procrastinating
45 Sight
47 Really mad
49 Tic
52 "Flying Down to —"
53 Time of your life?
54 Jason's wife
55 Still
56 Existed
57 Arctic, for one

DOWN
1 Lobbyists' org.
2 Greek vowel
3 Make insane
4 Carry on
5 Last letter
6 Make
7 Teller's partner
8 Spring mo.
9 Salary
10 Half the integers
11 Rushmore figure
17 Charlotte —, V.I.
19 Like
21 Lingerie buy
22 Lubricate
24 See 27-Across
26 Elf
28 Charles' princedom
30 Kitty
32 Explosive device
33 Texter's "Wow!"
34 Succumb to gravity
36 Tolerates
38 Frost-covered
39 Quvenzhane Wallis role
40 Prejudiced one
42 Doohickey (Var.)
45 Lyra's brightest star
46 Vienna-based cartel
48 Uncooked
50 The Red or the Black
51 Answer to the Sphinx's Riddle

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	L	I	T		S	I	D		I	S	L	E
L	A	T	H		T	W	O		S	T	A	R
A	V	O	W		R	O	N		T	R	I	O
P	A	N	A	M	A		F	T	H	I	C	S
			C	O	N			I	M	P		
O	M	S	K		G	O	S	S	I	P	E	D
P	O	T			E	N	T			E	R	E
S	O	R	C	E	P	E	R		G	R	A	B
		O	A	K			E	V	E			
H	E	L	P	E	D		A	I	R	W	A	Y
O	S	I	O		U	I	M		M	A	I	F
O	P	E	N		H	E	E		A	K	I	N
P	Y	R	E		F	I	R		N	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer 2-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rihanna, 27; Brian Littrell, 40; Willie Garson, 51; Sidney Poitier, 88.

Happy Birthday: You will find it difficult to sit back and let others take over. Working within a group will help you use your skills masterfully, gaining respect and encouraging you to strive to reach higher levels. Embrace challenge and defy anyone who stands in your way or makes unreasonable demands. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 29, 31, 35, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Start something new. An opportunity to stabilize your financial situation will ease stress. Invest in your skills, ideas and a solid moneymaking plan for the future. Long hours and hard work will pay off and bring you satisfaction. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Offer help to a local organization and an opportunity will develop. You will meet someone who shares your concerns and interests. Together you can make a contribution that will bring you peace of mind and boost your confidence and reputation. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be careful how you react to emotional situations. Don't stretch the truth to avoid dealing with something. You will be blamed for meddling or withholding information. Honesty is the best policy. Say what's on your mind and move on. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will be attracted to people, places and things that are unusual or unfamiliar to you. Gathering more financial information will help you make choices that will help you achieve your monetary goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are adaptable and ready to take on whatever comes your way. Indulge in challenges that make you think and act quickly. Don't let generosity be your downfall. Spend your money on something that offers you good value. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Handle partnerships, negotiations and money matters with care. Be mindful of what others are entitled to for a deal to be worthwhile. Withholding information will work against you. Make a commitment and honor your promises. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put your time and effort into your professional goals. Share your ideas and suggestions and look for a way to incorporate a small business plan into your schedule. Working two jobs will allow you to build a solid financial future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take advantage of any opportunity to travel and network. The people you meet now will be instrumental in your being hired for prospective jobs. An unusual change at home will be challenging initially, but an innovative approach will lead to victory. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put emotions aside regardless of what transpires. Focus on your physical health and wellness. Working to improve your surroundings or secure your future prospects will be what leads to satisfaction and success. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Avoid anyone showing signs of confusion, erratic behavior or impulsive actions. Stick to what you know and take whatever route is necessary to reach your destination without conflict. Use past experience to avoid personal or professional loss or status. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have plenty of imaginative ideas to mull over. Pick and choose what will bring the highest returns and the most satisfaction. Someone special will offer you recognition for your accomplishments, skills and talents. Financial gains can be made. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will have trouble controlling your emotions. Your eagerness to please will be taken advantage of by someone with ulterior motives. Romance will cause confusion and a false sense of security. Ask questions and offer honest suggestions and answers. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome, fun and entertaining. You are thoughtful and intuitive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	3				5	2	
6			9		4			7
2	3						7	8
				5				
8	7						4	5
7			4		5			6
	6	8				3	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	8	7	3	5	6	9	4
3	5	7	4	9	6	2	1	8
6	9	4	2	8	1	5	3	7
5	8	2	1	4	3	9	7	6
7	3	9	5	6	2	8	4	1
4	6	1	8	7	9	3	2	5
8	1	3	9	5	4	7	6	2
2	7	6	3	1	8	4	5	9
9	4	5	6	2	7	1	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SINGAPORE BOTANIC GARDENS Solution: 8 letters

P	B	J	G	T	B	U	K	I	T	T	I	M	A	H
H	A	A	A	R	R	L	L	I	K	R	U	B	D	E
E	E	P	L	C	M	A	L	E	G	E	M	E	N	R
E	G	A	I	L	O	F	I	T	A	L	E	M	A	I
E	R	N	L	L	A	B	S	L	L	L	E	D	V	T
B	K	O	Ⓞ	I	I	S	W	T	S	I	N	D	E	A
O	B	A	C	Ⓒ	N	O	A	D	O	S	S	R	S	G
T	G	O	L	N	Ⓔ	G	N	T	D	O	B	A	U	E
A	I	U	N	S	I	A	A	A	A	E	R	H	O	L
N	N	T	N	S	T	L	C	R	N	N	E	C	H	E
Y	G	R	S	S	A	Y	G	R	D	T	H	R	L	P
R	E	A	D	E	C	I	Y	N	A	E	H	O	O	H
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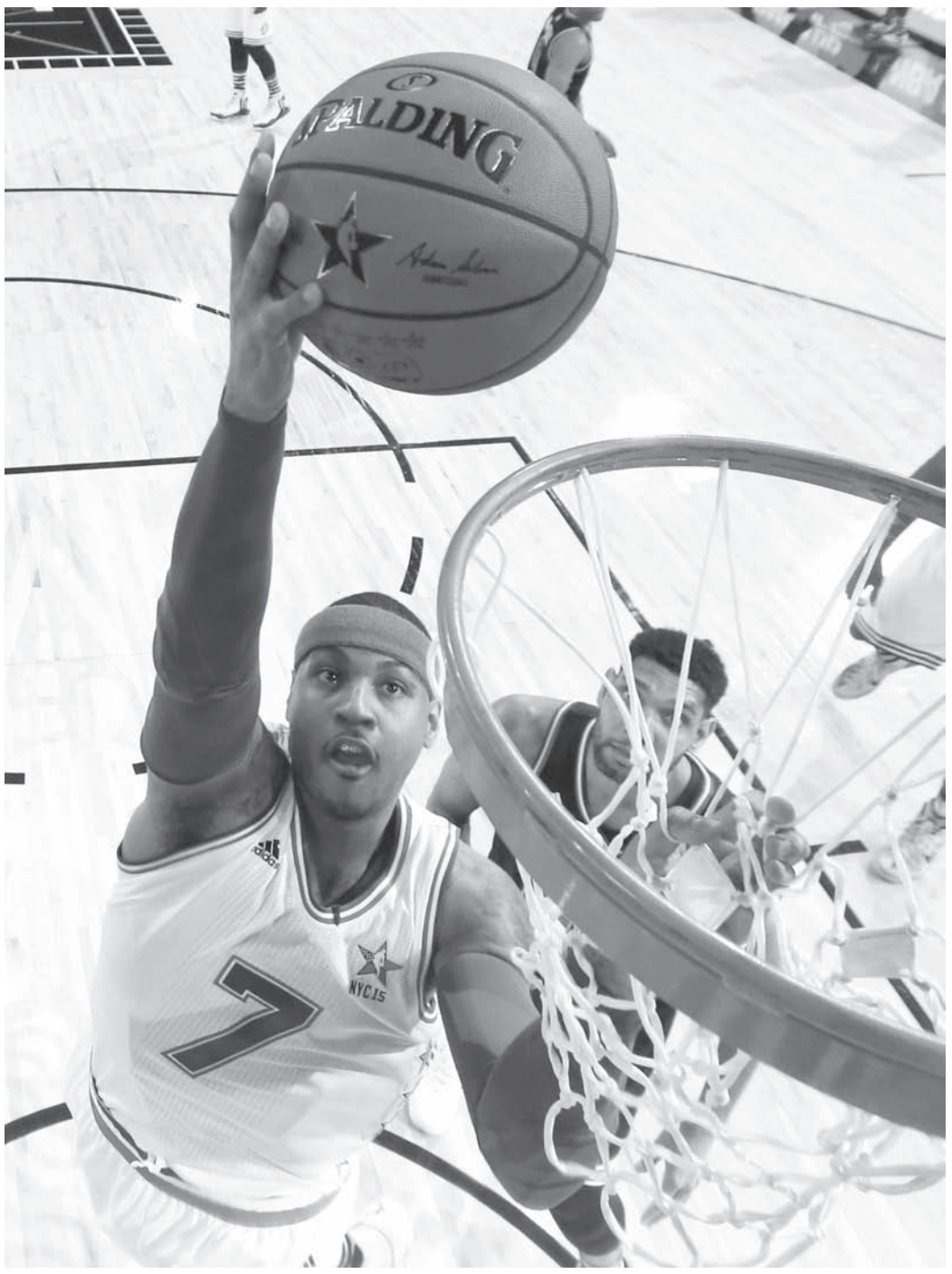
Knicks' Anthony to have season-ending left knee surgery



AP

East Team's Carmelo Anthony, of the New York Knicks, goes up for a shot during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015, in New York.

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Carmelo Anthony will have surgery on his left knee that could keep him off the court for four to six months.

New York Knicks President Phil Jackson said Wednesday a timetable for Anthony's recovery couldn't completely be determined until after the surgery, but early indications were that he could be back on the court this summer and be ready for training camp.

Jackson said he anticipated the procedure, which will include a left knee patella tendon debridement and repair, would be performed this week.

"It's obvious that he physically can't do the things that he's capable of doing, so this is a necessary step for him to take, I think, in order for him to get to the level that he's capable of getting to," coach Derek Fisher said.

Anthony has had pain for most of the season but continued to play despite the Knicks' league-worst 10-43 record. He was able to start in Sunday night in the All-Star Game at Madison Square Garden but appeared to be struggling, scoring 14 points on 6-of-20 shooting.

Jackson said he talked to Anthony last month, after he had missed six straight games, about scheduling the surgery—though said the Knicks were comfortable with Anthony taking part in the All-Star Game.

"I had a meeting with him when we were in London and we discussed this process of having the surgery sooner than later," Jackson said, "because we know that the process can take some time for rehab and getting back on the court and we wanted him to be able to make a full recovery and be ready for this coming season."

Anthony did not speak to reporters Wednesday.

He finished his 12th NBA season averaging 24.2 points and 6.6 rebounds in 40 games. The two-time Olympian turned 30 in May, two months before signing a five-year, $124 million contract in July, but Jackson said he was confident the former scoring champion would make a full recovery.

"We anticipate that as a scorer that's been prolific in his career, he'll continue to be so," Jackson said.

Anthony had knee surgery in 2011 during the offseason, and Jackson said he thought Anthony recovered well from that. He also had fluid drained from his right knee late in the 2012-13 season.

The decision on Anthony comes two days after the Knicks waived Amare Stoudemire following a contract buyout and leaves them severely undermanned for the final 29 games. Fisher believes Anthony may have kept playing this long because of the team's difficulties.

"He struggled with, I think, letting his teammates down and feeling like he wanted to be out there but knew some nights he shouldn't have been," Fisher said

Source: Wolves, Nets discussing Kevin Garnett trade

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Timberwolves and Brooklyn Nets are discussing a deal that would bring Kevin Garnett back to Minnesota, the place where his brilliant career began and to the franchise that he put on the map.

The two teams had exploratory talks on Wednesday, one day before the NBA's trade deadline, a person with knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press. The person requested anonymity because no deal has been agreed upon.

Garnett spent his first 12 years in Minnesota and was coached for much of that time by Flip Saunders, who made his own return to Minnesota before last season and is now the president of basketball operations and coaches the rebuilding team. Garnett was traded to Boston in 2007, won a championship and made two NBA Finals appearances with the Celtics.

He has spent the last two seasons languishing in a reduced role on the Nets, one of the league's biggest disappointments.

Garnett is in the final year of a contract that pays him $12 million this season and has a full no-trade clause, giving him all the leverage in this situation. He is notoriously resistant to change, especially in the middle of a season, and it remains unclear if he would uproot his family to come and play for the team that has the worst record (11-42) in the Western Conference.

But Garnett remains beloved in the Twin Cities, receiving thunderous standing ovations every time he returns to the Target Center. And the prospects of perhaps finishing his career wearing that familiar No. 21 on his back and playing in front of fans he always held close to his heart could appeal to him.

At 21-29, the Nets are still in the hunt in the muddled Eastern Conference. But their prospects of actually being competitive in the playoffs are slim, and if Garnett does relocate, he may want to seek out a team that is ready to contend for a championship.

Saunders, who also owns a portion of the team, continues to sing Garnett's praises years after the pairing parted. Saunders often references Garnett's development from a straight-out-of-high-school lottery pick in 1995 into one of the most versatile and intense power forwards the league has ever seen when talking about the plan to bring along current youngsters Andrew Wiggins, Zach LaVine, Gorgui Dieng and Shabazz Muhammad.

But the Wolves would likely have to give up forward Thaddeus Young in the deal to make the salaries match up, and team executives are still mulling whether to move a 26-year-old starter in his prime for 30 games of Garnett. After a slow start to the season that included enduring the sudden death of his mother, Young has started to play much better since Ricky Rubio, Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin returned from long injury absences. He is also a trusted veteran and valued voice in the locker room.

The pluses for the Wolves would include having one of the NBA's hardest workers in Garnett set a tone for the promising young nucleus on this roster and perhaps pave a way for Garnett to join the ownership group when he retires. Moving Young would also free up some cap space for next season as he has a $10 million player option for next season that he is likely to exercise.

ESPN first reported the talks.

Former Trail Blazers player Jerome Kersey dies at 52

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Jerome Kersey, the versatile small forward who helped the Portland Trail Blazers reach two NBA Finals and won a title with the San Antonio Spurs in 1999, died Wednesday. He was 52.

The cause of death wasn't immediately known.

A team ambassador, Kersey appeared Tuesday with fellow former Blazers Terry Porter and Brian Grant at a Portland high school in celebration of African American History Month.

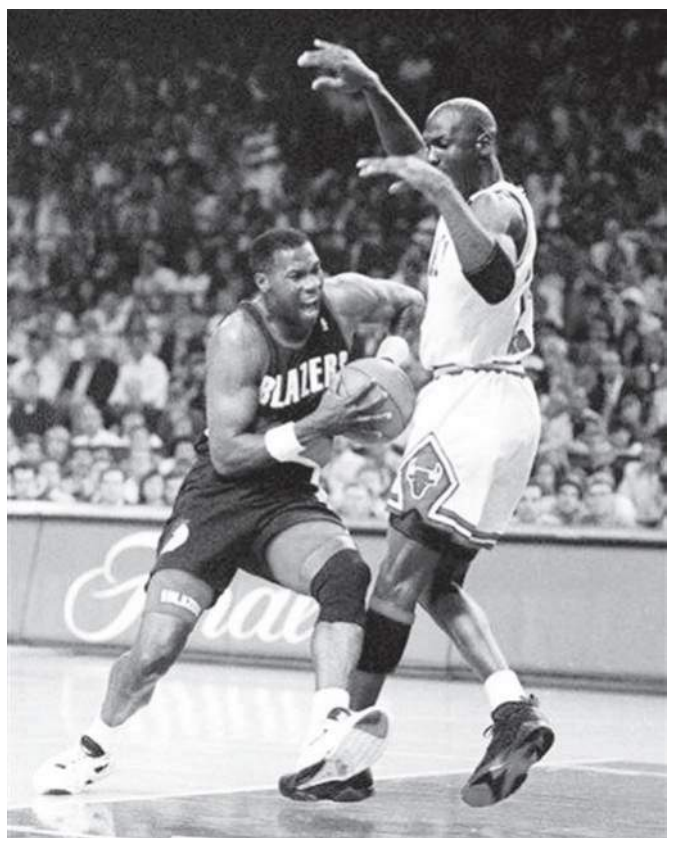
"Today we lost an incredible person and one of the most beloved players to ever wear a Trail Blazers uniform," Blazers owner Paul Allen said in a statement. "My thoughts and condolences are with the Kersey family. He will be missed by all of us. It's a terrible loss."

Kersey averaged 10.3 points and 5.5 rebounds in 17 seasons in the NBA with Portland, Golden State, the Los Angeles Lakers, Seattle, San Antonio and Milwaukee. He helped the Blazers reach the NBA Finals in 1990 and 1992, playing alongside Porter, Clyde Drexler, Kevin Duckworth and Buck Williams.

"He was the greatest guy, the nicest friend, teammate and brother. He was loved by everyone. We will all miss him. He just cared so much," Drexler told Comcast SportsNet Northwest. "This is unbelievable."

Kersey had his best season in 1987-88, averaging 19.2 points and 8.3 rebounds. Kersey played in 1,153 regular-season games, also averaging 1.9 assists and 1.2 steals.

The former Longwood University star ranks second on Portland's career games list with 831, third in minutes played at 21,400, second in rebounds with 5,078, third steals with 1,059, and fifth in points with 10,067.



AP

In this June 14, 1992, file photo, Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan, right, tries to hold off Portland Trail Blazers' Jerome Kersey during Game 6 in basketball's NBA Finals in Chicago.

At 6-foot-7 and 215 pounds, "No Mercy" Kersey had a broad smile and a warm manner that made him a fan favorite.

Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard posted to Twitter: "Spoke to him regularly about life and the ups and downs of a NBA season. Gone too soon, much love!" Others who posted their condolences included Kobe Bryant and Vince Carter.

Kersey retired from basketball in 2001. He was an assistant coach with Milwaukee in 2004-05 under Porter. In addition to serving as a team ambassador, he appeared on Blazers' broadcasts for Comcast SportsNet Northwest.

At Longwood, a Division II school in Farmville, Virginia, Kersey averaged 17 points and 11.3. He was a second-round pick by the Blazers in the 1984 draft.

"The news is so sudden, and we're sure more details will be forthcoming," Blazers President Chris McGowan said. "But it is indeed a sad day for our organization, the city of Portland and the NBA. Jerome will be remembered not only for his incredible contributions on the court, but his tremendous impact in our community."

Kersey lived with wife Teri in Lake Oswego.

Play Ball: Champion Giants begin effort to win in 'odd year'

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The San Francisco Giants roll in even years, winning the World Series in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Enough of that pattern, Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

"We want to have a lot of fun in an odd year," he said while San Francisco pitchers and catchers reported for spring training on Wednesday.

Pitchers and catchers also reported to the Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians and Philadelphia Phillies. The rest of the major league teams will get going over the next few days, half of them in Arizona, half in Florida.

As usual, pitching should be San Francisco's strength. Bochy said he's pretty set on the five-man rotation that will open the season.

He didn't name them. But by eliminating the non-starters he did mention, the five would be ace Madison Bumgarner, Matt Cain, Tim Hudson, Jake Peavy and Tim Lincecum.

"We haven't put the order down exactly but we've got a pretty good idea of what it's going to be," Bochy said.

He said Ryan Vogelsong and Yusmeiro Petit would be long-relievers and spot starters. Vogelsong re-signed with San Francisco, a one-year, $4 million deal, knowing the crowded starter situation he was rejoining.

AP
St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina, right, talks with pitcher Carlos Martinez after catching Martinez's bullpen session during spring training baseball practice Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015, in Jupiter, Fla.

"We talked a little bit about the situation and he understands it," Bochy said. "You can't have enough depth in the rotation. I'm glad that Ryan decided to come back with us and I think it's going to be a workable situation. They can help each other out, maybe give a guy a start off."

Lincecum said he has rediscovered the mechanics that once made him among the best in the game.

"My body just started to kind of click and grasp onto the things I used to do naturally," he said.

He isn't taking the starting role for granted.

"I feel I have to re-earn my spot in the rotation," he said. "I didn't really finish off the year very well last year at all. That kind of left a drive in me. I want to get that back and discover what went wrong."

Cain seems to be fully recovered from last year's surgeries on his right elbow and right ankle.

"Matt looks great, feels great," Bochy said. "I mean, really has got a great look about him. I think he's excited that he's healthy again and he'll be back on the mound. He's a big part of the staff. We need him. We need Matt to be who he is and stay healthy this year."

Of the projected starting five, only the 39-year-old Hudson won't be ready right off this spring.

He is still recovering from surgery to remove bone spurs from his right ankle.

"I'm probably a couple of weeks behind where I normally am," Hudson said. "I had my surgery on the second of January so I wasn't able to start throwing until the latter part of January. So just from a throwing standpoint I have a little ways to go before I'm ready to get in some games. My mindset is just to be ready for the real games when the season starts, whether that means me pitching in one game or four games this spring."

The team lost two starters from last year's championship squad. Third baseman Pablo Sandoval signed a five-year, $95 million free agent contract with Boston. Mike Morse signed a two-year, $16 million deal with Miami.

But those who are returning are a strong bunch, their manager said.

"With this team, I think it's fair to say we're pretty well set," Bochy said. "...We're in a good place. We'd like to have a lot of fun in an odd year. We'd like to change that up, so we'll see if we can do that. I love the fact that we've had the continuity here with this staff. We have depth in the rotation. This is a team with a lot of character."

Sitting in the Scottsdale Stadium dugout, the manager reflected only briefly on last year's triumph.

"We had a great year last year," he said. "I hope they took time to enjoy it and savor all of that, but it's time to go to work."

At the Phillies camp in Clearwater, Florida, manager Ryne Sandberg said Ryan Howard would be the team's first baseman, despite the team's rebuilding efforts and attempts to trade the declining veteran.

Howard is due a minimum of $60 million over the next two years.

"Right now he's here to prepare for the season as one of the guys," Sandberg said. "If he gets to where he's hitting 30-35 home runs, which is good home runs for this day and age of baseball, he can help us win games this year. To see him in the spring and see him prepare and have him get ready, he's here. Right now, unless he gets unseated he's the first baseman."

Tan Holdings, Matansa stay perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings Football Club and Matansa FC remained unbeaten to retain the top spot in their respective divisions in the M-League.

Tan Holdings earned its third win in as many games following a 4-0 victory over Paire FC last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. With its 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record, Tan Holdings keeps the Division 1 lead against Wild Bill's (2-0-1), MP United (1-1-1), Inter Godfather's (1-1-1), Paire (1-0-2), and Korean Football Association on Saipan (0-0-3).

Sean Perez helped Tan Holdings extend its win streak after scoring two goals against Paire. Mareko Tekopua and Semisi Paongo contributed one goal apiece.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNM Women's National Team's Michelle Masga kicks the ball off a throw-in from Elaine Enriquez, while World Resort's Daniel Agulto stays back on defense during their Division 2 game in the M-League last Wednesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

In other Division 1 results, Wild Bill's and Inter Godfather's downed separate foes.

Wild Bill's edged MP United in the first game last weekend, 3-2, off Tanapon Unsa's hat-trick.

Unsa drilled all his goals in the first half, giving Wild Bill's a 3-1 halftime lead. Joe Miller and Dakota Hall tallied the two goals for MP United with the former making the first one in the 36th minute and the latter hitting the scoreboard in the 62nd.

In the second match, Inter Godfather's dominated KFAS, 5-1.

Four different players contributed to Inter Godfather's cause with Peter Loken leading the team with his back-to-back goals (65th and 80th) in the second half. Inter Godfather's drew its first three goals in the opening half from Ryu Tanzawa (fifth minute), Shunji Nagayasu (22nd), and David Duenas (30th).

Meanwhile, in Division 1, Matansa led the field with its perfect 3-0-0 slate.

Matansa bagged its third consecutive victory after slipping past the Thundercats, 3-2, in the last game of the weekend.

Kamrul Kamrul hit the goal that gave Matansa cushion in second half, while Young Ha Hwang and Ahmed Titu registered the two other goals. The Thundercats (0-2-1) got their two goals from Don Cabrera and Cosmos Kim.

The other Division 2 match last Sunday between Shirley's FC (1-2-0) and Sun Palace (0-3-0) ended in a draw, 2-2.

Guang Lin Li posted the equalizer in the second half (47th) for Sun Palace, which drew its first goal from Jun Sik Kim. Shirley's had its two goals in the first half, courtesy of Muneaki Arai (12th minute) and Kosuke Sato (35th).

Action in Division 2 continued last Wednesday night with World Resort (1-2-0) beating the CNMI Women's National Team, 4-2.

Daniel Agulto and Hoin Ryu collected two goals apiece for World Resort, while Renita Fleming and Jeraldine Castillo had one each for the Women's National Team (0-0-3).

MHS fires 17 triples in rout of MBA

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Michael Espinosa fired six of Marianas High School's 17 3-pointers and the Dolphins rolled past the Marianas Baptist Academy Stormz, 90-49, in their final elimination round assignment in last Wednesday's game in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium.

Espinosa, held scoreless in the first quarter where MHS pulled away, finished with 26 points with the bulk of his offensive output coming in the second half where the only thing that needed to be settled was the final tally.

Prince Factor added 17 points, while Karlo De Leon and Irvyn Malonzo scored 15 and 14 each also for the Dolphins, who completed a 12-game sweep of the eliminations. Mikell Arciaga finished with 10.

Kong Seong Ryoo led MBA with 27 points, while Jong Young Rin chipped in 10.

In the second game, Kagman High School overcame a slow start before cruising to a 66-29 decision over Saipan International School.

Andrew Palino scored 9 straight points in Kagman's 13-0 run to break a 4-4 tie and erect a 17-4 spread midway in the first period.

SIS, behind back-to-back 3-pointers by Andrew Johnson and Christopher Cepeda, answered with a closing 12-2 exchange to trail by 3, 19-16, after 10 minutes of play.

The Ayuyus, however, proved to be too much for the Geckos, pulling away in the second quarter and was never threatened after that.

Michael Muna paced Kagman with 22 points, while Paulino finished with 16.

Johnson was the lone Gecko to break into twin digits with 13, while Cepeda tallied 9 markers.

Earlier, Edilberto Javier Jr. poured in 21 points as Saipan Southern High School pulled off an 88-74 triumph against Grace Christian Academy.

Mi'i Tekopua added 14, while Jethro Cruz and Joseph Taitano ended up with 13 and 12 markers also for Southern, which remain in second place with an 8-3 slate behind defending champion MHS' clean 12-0 slate.

Lee Dong Ha scored a game-high 30 points for GCA, while William Hinson contributed 18 and Hong Jun Ho finished with 10.

First Game

SSHS 88 – Javier 21, Tekopua 14, Cruz 13, Taitano 12, Rivera 8, Bondoc 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Kintaro 6, Esmundo 2.

GCA 74 – Lee 30, Hinson 18, Hong 10, Libut 6, Trinidad 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 36-36, 68-59, 88-74.

Second Game

KHS 66 – Muna 22, Paulino 16, Evangelista 8, Arceo 6, Jones 6, Lizama 5, Racadio 3.

SIS 29 – Johnson 13, C. Cepeda 9, H.H. Kim 4, Y.K. Kim 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 40-19, 50-23, 66-29.

Third Game

MHS 90 – Espinosa 26, Factor 17, De Leon 15, Malonzo 14, Arciaga 10, Benavente 6, Manalili 2.

MBA 49 – Kong 27, Jong 10, Manglona 8, W.J. Kim 2, Song 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-5, 46-23, 74-34, 90-49.

JON PEREZ
Saipan International School teammates Christopher Cepeda, left, and Andrew Johnson, right, try to prevent Kagman High School's Michael Muna from scoring in their game last Wednesday in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys basketball league.

MBT tryouts tomorrow

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be conducting open tryouts for any interested boys and girls, ages 12-15, for the upcoming MBT 15-and-under tournament that Saipan will be hosting from June 21 to 27 this year.

The tryouts commence this Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The tryouts for the girls division will run from 9:30am to 11:30am, while the boys will have their turn from 1pm to 3pm.

Players are encouraged to be at the gym 30 minutes prior to start of training and bring their own water bottle, towel, extra shirt, and a pair of basketball sneakers.

Training schedule and other pertinent documents will be distributed after the tryout sessions.

For more information, contact Elias Rangamar at 234-6672 or 989-5225 or email at eliasrangamar@hotmail.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BREWERS

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the seventh to ninth. He struck out Henry Iguel, Lamarc Iguel, and Celis in the bottom of the ninth to end the Falcons' hopes of making a comeback.

Right fielder Omar went 2-for-5 and his two-RBI single in top of the second highlighted the defending champions' four-run rally to enjoy a 5-0 cushion. He also scored two runs.

Nokki Saralu had a perfect 4-for-4 appearance at the plate with a pair of RBI singles, a double, and one run, while Marvin Kaipat, 3-for-5, had a double and touched home plate three times. Diego Camacho went 2-for-5 with a triple, two runs, and one RBI.

Leonard Sablan started for the Brewers, giving up four earned runs on seven hits while fanning two and walking one.

Falcons manager Doru Camacho used four pitchers—Benavente, Torres, Lieto, and Celis—but all of them failed to stop the Brewers bats. They gave up a combined eight earned runs on 13 hits.

In other news, SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is reminding all teams that they need to play in complete uniform at the start of the second round.

ADA

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He said that the coach and district administrator face suspension with the number of years depending on the Little League headquarters. The worst case is revocation of the chartered Little League program.

"Things like this won't happen if the adults who are running the program have done their research. It is still the responsibility of the local leagues to make sure all documents are complete and no rule is violated," said Ada, who added that it is usually the player agent who makes sure all eligibility requirements are met.

"Once the player agent signs it is deemed legitimate and will now be certified by the league president and the district administrator."

That's why it has been the policy of the CNMI Little League to make sure all documents are in proper order whenever they qualify to the World Series.

"Because it takes us long just to get to the mainland. It has been our policy to review all documents before we leave and make sure all copies are complete. That has been one of the responsibilities of the district administrator."

DOUBLES

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finalists first ousted Tisha Ferrer and Jeffrey Seo, 6-4, 6-4; won over Dong Min Lee and Rintaro Miyawaki, 6-4, 6-4; topped Vincent Tudela and Coume Kaga, 7-6, 7-6; and stunned the top-ranked Moris Villanueva and Haruya Eda, 6-3, 6-0 in the quarterfinals.

Beling and Ortega went on to keep their streak with a thrilling 4-6, 6-2, 10-6 semis victory over Michael Ren and Conatsu Kaga in the semis.

Conatsu and Ren completed the Final Four and set up a semis date with Beling and Ortega after winning three earlier matches. The semifinalists started their bid in the mixed-up doubles with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Marivic Rosario and Riko Ojima and then bagged two more wins over Carol Lee and Gang Min Kim, 7-5, 6-3, and Steven Goodwin and Jamin Elliot, 6-2, 6-2.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LOCAL SCORES

MASTERS CAGING STANDINGS

Blue Haus	6	0	
Armatech	5	1	
Bammy's	3	2	
KB Hite		3	3
Slashers	1	4	
Saipan Warriors		1	5
Boomers	1	5	

MISO BOYS STANDINGS

MHS	12	0
SSHS	8	3
MCS	7	4
KHS	6	4
GCA	4	6
SIS	2	9
MBA	0	10

SBL STANDINGS

Brewers	5	0
Yankees	3	1
Falcons	3	2
Fielders	2	3
North Starz	1	4
Jets	0	5

Armatech, Boomers waltz past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech and Boomers won their last game in the regular season of the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Boomers finally barged into the win column following its 68-52 victory over the Slashers in the first match, while Armatech also earned a double-digit winning margin over KB Hite, 90-68, in the last game.

Armatech finished the round-robin competition with a second-best 5-1 record, while Boomers ended up with a 1-5 card. The Slashers fell to a 1-4 record and could tie Boomers and Saipan Warriors (1-5) for the fifth to seventh spot if they lose to Bammy's Restaurant tonight in the last game of the regular season. The loser in the possible three-team tiebreak will face No. 2 rank Armatech in the playoffs, while other pairings are No. 3 vs 6 and No. 4 vs 5. KB Kite (3-3) is likely to slide to No. 4 even if Bammy's (3-2) drops its game as the latter beat the former in their Feb. 4 match.

The Boomers avoided the cellar for now as they took control of their last game right from the start. They built an 8-point cushion after the first, 20-12, and slowly increased their lead in the last three quarters to snap their five-game losing skid.

Dennis Cortez top-scored for the Boomers for the third straight time with his 18 points, while Dindo Pablo chipped in 17. Sonny Ebuen had 16 for the Slashers, who have lost their last three games.

In the second tiff, Armatech won their final four matches and all were lopsided.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Rommel Bartolo pulls up for an open jumper during the closing seconds of their game against KB Hite in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Against KB Hite, Armatech blew the game wide open in the second period, turning a 17-12 lead to a 49-29 halftime edge.

James Abuy anchored the breakaway, scoring 12 points with all of them coming from beyond the arc. He capped the second-quarter spurt with back-to-back triples and also nailed 9 of Armatech's last 10 markers. Abuy finished with 16 points, matching Yosh Gabaldon's output.

Gabaldon took over from Abuy in the third period, burying two treys and scoring 10 in that quarter, which ended with Armatech way ahead, 74-47.

First Game

Boomers 68 – Cortez 18, Pablo 17, Anasan 8, Echavez 6, Joson 4, Salazar 4, Usi 2.

Slashers 52 – S. Ebuen 16, Abadilla 8, Tengco 8, De Jesus 5, Tibayan 4, Leong 4, O. Ebuen 3, Alvarez 3.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12, 38-25, 54-40, 68-52.

Second Game

Armatech 90 – Gabaldon 16, Abuy 16, Park 10, Berline 9, Bartolo 6, Poquiz 6, Tobias 6, Montano 6, Manalili 5, Gatdula 4.

KB Hite 68 – Mungcal 23, Cosino 20, Sison 9, Pineda 4, Verano 3, Montes 3, Plinske 3, Pangelinan 1, Koebel 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-12, 49-29, 74-47, 90-68.

SLLB to benefit from Mariana Resort event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. will be the beneficiary of proceeds from "Marpi Carnival" that Mariana Resort and Spa Saipan will hold in April this year in celebration of its 37th anniversary.

"As part of our 37th anniversary celebration, our company will be hosting a carnival on April 11 for our island-wide communities," Mariana Resort's Charlene Babauta said. "We would like to invite all interested groups and organizations to participate in the carnival by operating a game booth or food/drinks booth for this worthwhile cause as fees collected from the organizations will be donated to Saipan Little League Baseball."

SLLBI president Ben Jones met with the carnival organizers to discuss their partnership and expressed the league's gratitude to Mariana Resort.

"We're very happy and grateful that they decided to choose Saipan Little League Baseball as beneficiary of their event. Their donations are highly appreciated as we will use them in the program's operational cost," Jones told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview.

Babauta when asked why they picked SLLB, she said they have the youth in mind.

"We enjoy supporting our youth as we have always contributed to our schools the past years. And this year, we decided that we want our youth to play a bigger role in the celebration of our 37th year of serving the CNMI. Thus, this celebratory event offers all other youth organizations and groups the opportunity to raise funds," Babauta said.

"After being approached by several members of the league for donations and sponsorship for a team and learning that there will be at least a couple of big events that the Little League will be participating in, such as the Regional and the World Series, we discussed it during our management meeting and decided that we will give them our support. In addition, we also sponsored one team, the As Matuis Twins," she added.

Babauta said groups wishing to open booths for games will only pay $25, while food/drinks booth's space is only for $50. Fees also include 10 percent of the group's revenue.

Interested groups are encourage to have boots as the carnival will coincide with the 3rd Annual HANMI Go-Kart Race that is expected to draw a lot of participants and spectators. This year's race will be more exciting, as organizers said Mariana Resort Seaside Circuit just bought six new fast-speed karts.

Besides the carnival and go-kart race, Mariana Resort will also hold the "Battle of the Bands" and a golf tournament as part of its anniversary activities. Entry fee for the "Battle of the Bands" is only $20 with the champion winning $1,000 and $500 and $250 going to the second and third placers, respectively. For the golf tournament, which will be held on April 12, proceeds will also be donated to SLLB.

For more information, contact Babauta at charlene.babauta@gmail.com or Roquita Norita at kitnorita@gmail.com and for the go-kart race inquiries, contact Carlos Rivera at carlos_rivera@centuryhotel-spn.com or Lito Parulan at lito.parulan@marianaresort.com.

M-LEAGUE FIXTURES

MEN'S DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Tan Holdings	3	3	0	0	9	10	1	9
2	Wild Bill's	3	2	0	1	6	6	7	-1
3	MP United	3	1	1	1	4	9	6	3
4	Inter Godfather's	3	1	1	1	4	8	5	3
5	Paire	3	1	0	2	3	1	6	-5
6	KFAS	3	0	0	3	0	1	10	-9

MEN'S DIVISION 2

1	Matansa	3	3	0	0	9	10	4	6
2	Shirley's	3	1	2	0	5	8	7	1
3	World Resort	3	1	2	0	5	7	5	2
4	Sun Palace	3	0	3	0	3	5	5	0
5	Thundercats	3	0	2	1	2	6	7	-1
6	Kanoa	2	0	1	1	1	3	5	-2
7	WNT	3	0	0	3	0	6	12	-6

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1	Tan Holdings	2	1	1	0	4	7	3	4
2	Shirley's	1	1	0	0	3	4	0	4
3	Matansa	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	3
4	IFC	2	1	0	1	3	3	5	-2
5	MP United	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	0
6	Kanoa	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	-1
7	Paire	2	0	0	2	0	0	8	-8

UPCOMING GAMES

Feb. 21, 2015 (Women's)
4pm Tan Holdings vs Kanoa
6pm Shirley's vs IFC
8pm MP United vs Paire
Feb. 22, 2015 (Men's)
12pm MP United vs Paire
2pm KFAS vs Wild Bill's
4pm Inter vs Tan Holdings
6pm WNT vs Kanoa
8pm Matansa vs Sun Palace
Feb. 24, 2015 (Women's)
7:15pm Matansa vs MP United
Feb. 26, 2015 (Men's)
7pm Shirley's vs Thundercats

Veterans rule For the Love of Volleyball

Lickity Split and MmmmmChhhmmmchhh topped their respective divisions in the recently concluded For the Love of Volleyball tournament held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's beach side over the weekend.

For The Love of Volleyball is a warm-up event organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association before the Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival's Pro-Am Open in Guam later this month.

Lickity Split, made of Jeff Carlucci and Tyler Willsey, did not lose a match on their way to clinching the men's trophy.

They defeated crowd favorites Old Yellers—Russ Quinn and Tyce Mister—in the finals to complete their unbeaten run.

The Managaha Chiefs!, made up of brothers Larry and Youme Sharry, finished third among the six-team field.

All three pairs will see action in the Pro-Am Open with Carlucci and Willsey playing with different partners.

MmmmmChhhmmmchhh bested eight other teams to rule the women's side with Christen Steinkuller retaining the title but with Athena Andrews, the Northern Marianas Sports Association October Female Athlete of the Month.

Cupid's Minions, Charness "Chenny" Lizama and Toni Kasilyn Yamada, finished second, while the Dolphin Duo of Marianas High School girls' volleyball coach Kathy Winkfield and Sabrina Pangelinan came in third.

Steinkuller, Andrews, Lizama, and Yamada are hoping to earn spots to the Pro-Am Open.

NMIVA would like to extend its gratitude to event host Hyatt Regency Saipan and their staff, Mister and his crew for court maintenance and set up, Amie McRoberts, Anna Yamada, and all volunteers that helped in the registration, games and prizes. ***(NMIVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lickity Split's Jeff Carlucci and Tyler Willsey and MmmmmChhhmmmchhh's Christen Steinkuller and Athena Andrews pose for a photo after topping the men's and women's divisions of NMIVA's For the Love of Volleyball tourney held at Hyatt Regency Saipan's beach side over the weekend.

Knicks' Anthony to have season-ending left knee surgery

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Armatech, Boomers waltz past foes

PAGE 31

Brewers cage Falcons to sweep first round

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Vince Cepeda was unhittable while Tyron Omar drove in three runs to power the GSM Brewers to a 10-4 win over the Falcons in Wednesday night's game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Cepeda pitched 4.1 innings in relief coming in the bottom of the fifth when Greg Iskawa was about to bat and the Falcons, with two outs, already having scored four runs. He walked Iskawa and Haini Blas but got the third out by fanning Juan Iguel.

Cepeda, the ERA and strikeout leader, finally settled in after that and pitched four shutout innings to seal the Brewers' fifth straight win. He struck out 12 for the second straight game while walking three.

Cepeda's total of 12 strikeouts was the combined output of Falcons pitchers Aaron Benavente, Dave Torres, Peter Lieto, and Jess Celis for the entire match.

Cepeda looked like he was in a hurry as he had quick 1-2-3 innings, from

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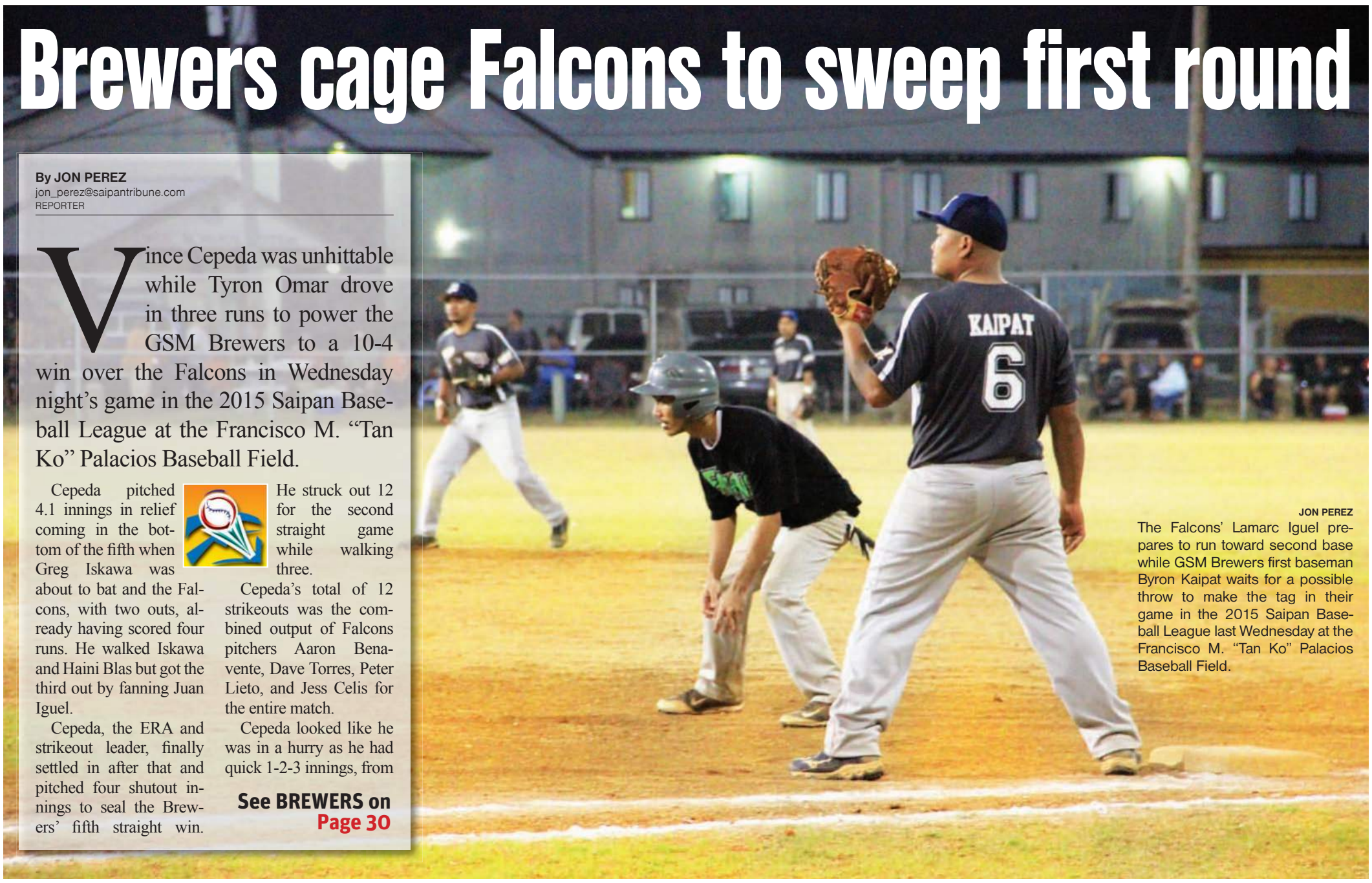

JON PEREZ
The Falcons' Lamarc Iguel prepares to run toward second base while GSM Brewers first baseman Byron Kaipat waits for a possible throw to make the tag in their game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Ada: Youth program under adult supervision

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Former CNMI Little League district administrator James Ada said that although the Little League program is for the youth, adult supervision is still needed to help guide the kids.

Ada

That's why last week's news of the Jackie Robinson West team being stripped of its national title came as a surprise for him.

"Basically, I felt sad for the whole team. For the parents of the kids, the volunteers, staff, and personnel that worked under the program. But, a thing like this that happened is uncalled for," said Ada in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Little League headquarters found out that some members of the Jackie Robinson West team, which even had an audience with President Barrack Obama, were not originally from the area as a district official allegedly helped in changing some of the boundaries.

The longtime CNMI district administrator added that officials at the Little League headquarters in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania just acted accordingly.

"The Little League headquarters gathered all information and just acted accordingly based on their findings. And HQ found out that they violated some rules. It will be hard for the kids and I sympathize with them and their parents."

See ADA on Page 30

Rastguiy, Miyawaki rule mixed-up doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Negahr Rastguiy and Malika Miyawaki fell short in their respective bids in the singles competition in the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic, but still managed to bring home top honors after winning the mixed-up doubles contest.

The two junior players clinched the championship in the event's unique pairing after sweeping the pair of men's open champion Luke Beling and fellow young netter Erie Ortega, 7-5, 6-3, last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Rastguiy, who finished third in the women's open and girls U18 singles and Ortega, a fifth placer in the girls U12 singles, marched into the finals of the mixed-up doubles after eliminating the tandem of coach Jeff Race and his student Richard Steele, 6-4, 6-0, in the semis of the bottom half of the draw.

Race and Steele, who rounded out the Top 3, made it to the Final Four after notching victories against the pairs of Sakiko Eda and Joshua Abragan, 6-2, 6-4; Jack McClure and Grace Choi, 6-3, 6-1; and Luther Lizama and Allan Lee, 6-4, 6-0.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Malika Miyawaki, left, and Negahr Rastguiy return to Luke Beling and Erie Ortega during their mixed-up doubles title match in the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Miyawaki and Rastguiy, the second-ranked duo in the draw, on the other hand, needed only two wins to advance to the semis. They first beat Nicky Nichols and A.J. Hudkins, 6-0, 6-0, and then topped Fr. Ryan Jimenez and Mimi Sakano, 6-4, 6-2.

At the top half of the draw, Beling, who won last year's event with Joshua Abragan, and Ortega were unseeded and made it all the way to the finals after collecting five wins. The

See DOUBLES on Page 30